FLASH, AND PART OF HIS BAND OF FREEMEN, HAVE ESCAPED FROM THE FLOODED TUNNELS TO AN ISLAND ON THE MINGO RIVER.
"THE ONLY BUILDING ON THE ISLAND--WHAT IS IT, BULOK? "THIS, FLASH, IS THE TOMB OF THE ROYALTY OF MINGO."

AS THEY PREPARE TO ENTER THE SOMBER STRUCTURE, THEY ARE STARTLED BY A MUFFLED ROAR-----

WHEN MING SOUGHT TO DROWN THE OUTLAWS BY TURNING A RIVER INTO THEIR TUNNELS, HE UNDERMINED PART OF THE CITY.

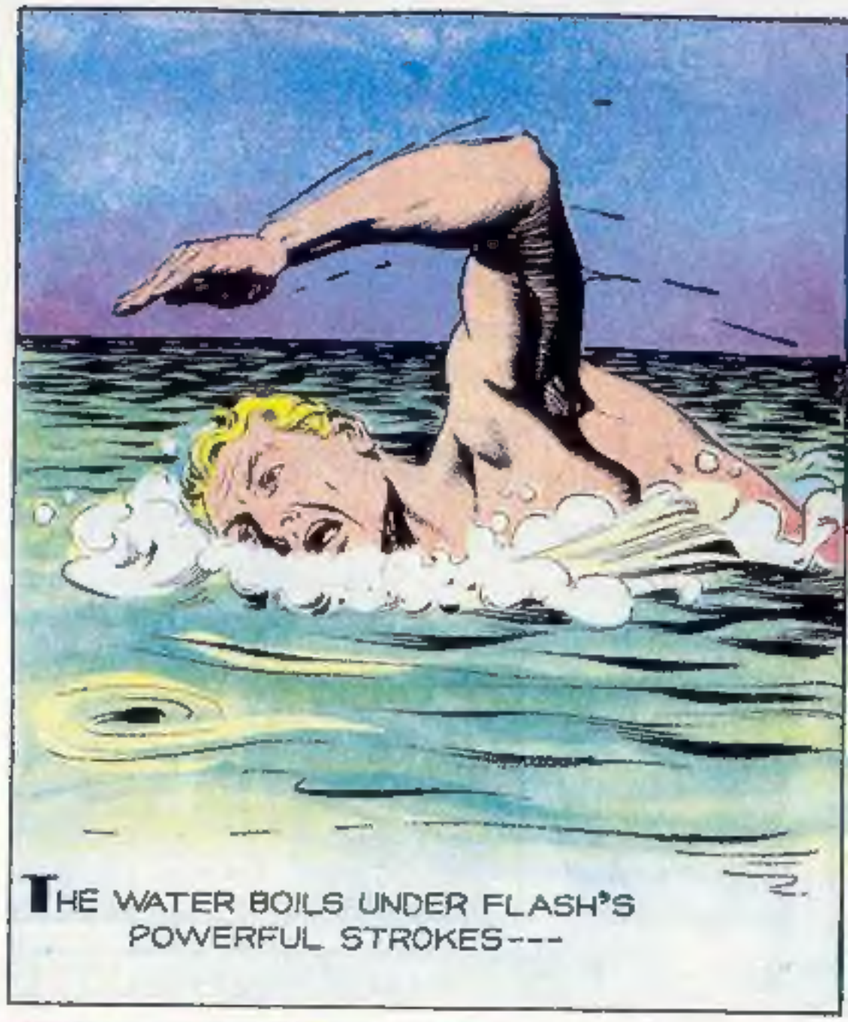
THE FUGITIVES ENTER THE TOMB AND ARE CONFRONTED WITH ROWS OF STRANGELY WROUGHT CRYPTS.

OH, FLASH--I'M AFRAID! IT'S SO STRANGE AND GLOOMY!
BRACE UP, DARLING-- THIS PLACE MAY BE UNPLEASANT, BUT IT OFFERS US SHELTER AND SAFETY. BY THE WAY, YOUNG LADY, WEREN'T YOU ANGRY WITH ME?

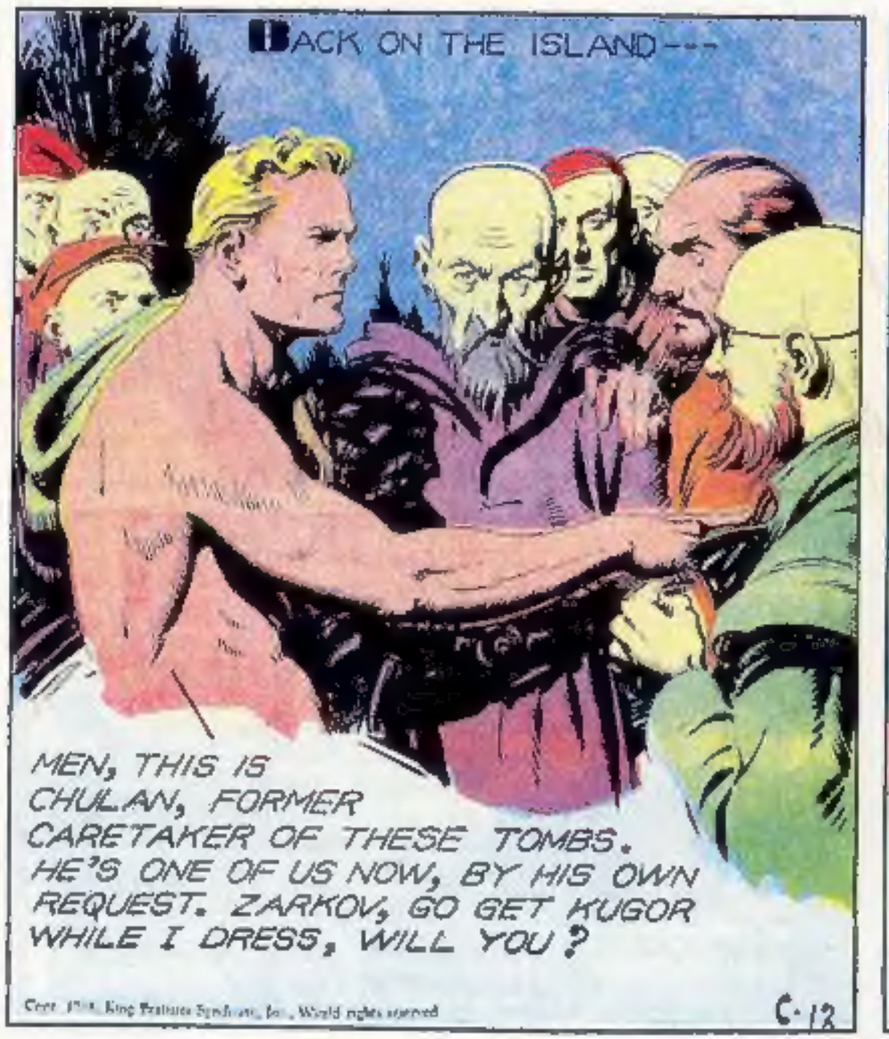
ANGRY? FLASH, YOU ARE ALL I HAVE-- ALL I LIVE FOR-- AND WHAT'S MORE, YOUNG MAN, YOU KNOW IT!
BUT IT'S SO DARN NICE TO HEAR YOU SAY IT!
NEXT WEEK: A SPY IS SENT

MEN IN THE TOMBS! GRAVE-ROBBERS! I MUST GET HELP!
THE AGED CARETAKER, VISITING THE ROYAL TOMBS WHERE FLASH AND THE FREEMEN HAVE TAKEN REFUGE, TURNS BACK IN ALARM---

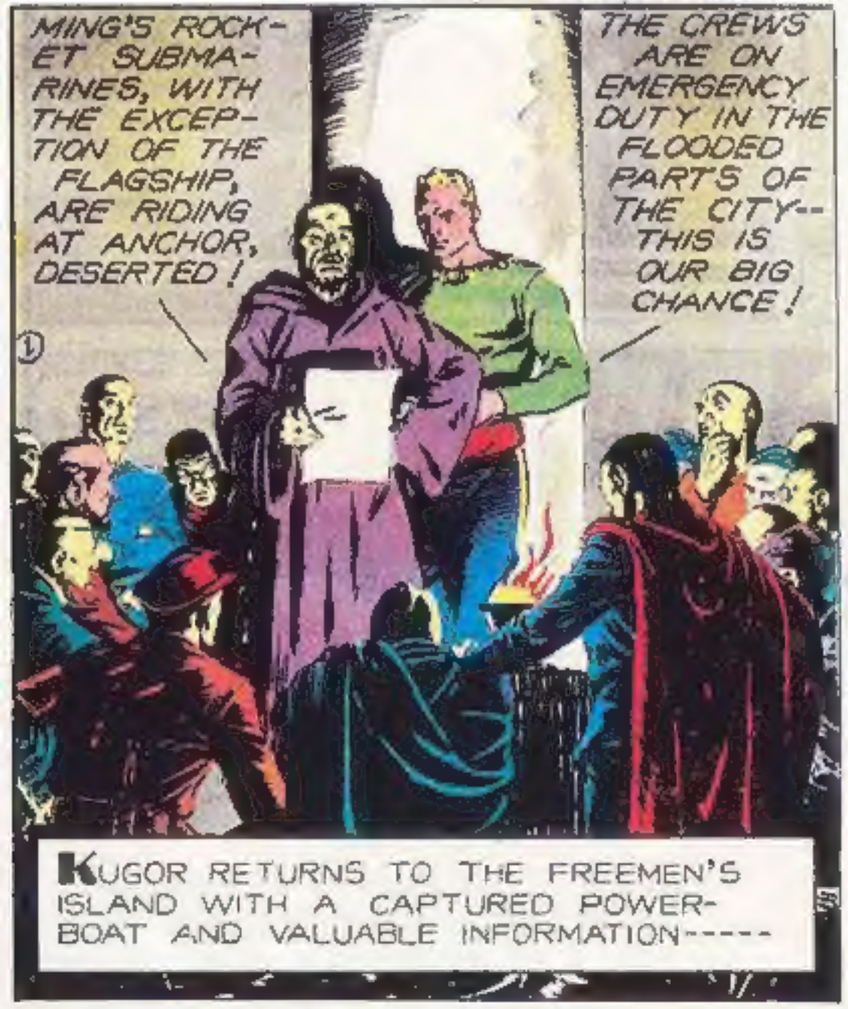
THAT MAN IN THE BOAT SAW US!
DON'T SHOOT, OR YOU'LL BE HEARD IN THE CITY-- I'LL GET HIM!

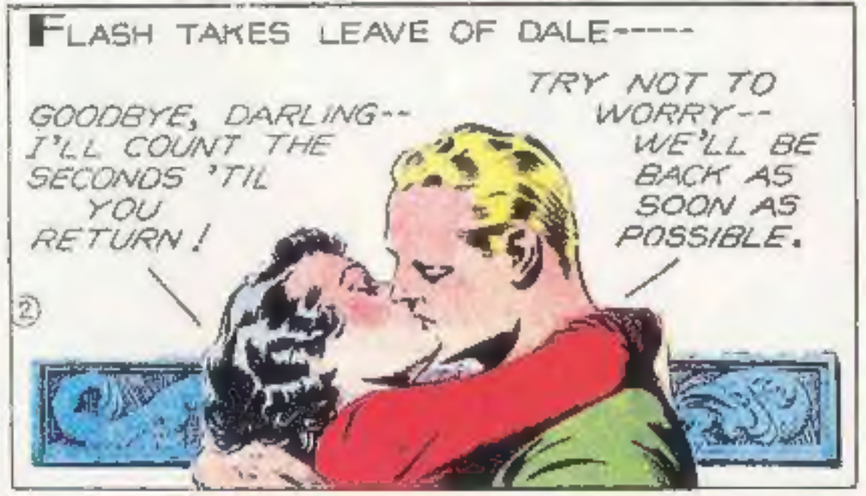

THE WATER BOILS UNDER FLASH'S POWERFUL STROKES---

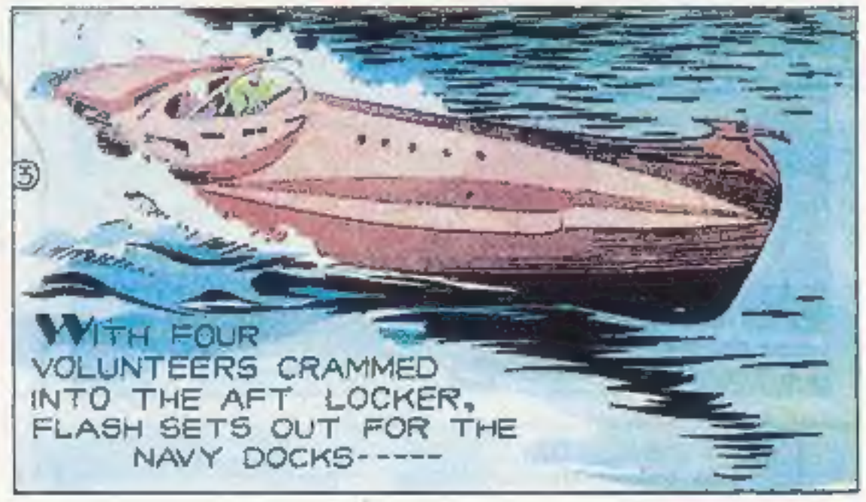
WHY--YOU'RE FLASH GORDON!
RIGHT YOU ARE, GRANDDAD--- WHO ARE YOU?


BACK ON THE ISLAND---
MEN, THIS IS CHULAN, FORMER CARETAKER OF THESE TOMBS. HE'S ONE OF US NOW, BY HIS OWN REQUEST. ZARKOV, GO GET KUGOR WHILE I DRESS, WILL YOU?
C-12

FLASH AND ZARKOV SKILFULLY DISGUISE KUGOR TO LOOK LIKE CHULAN AND SEND HIM TO SCOUT THE CITY.
NEXT WEEK: RAID!

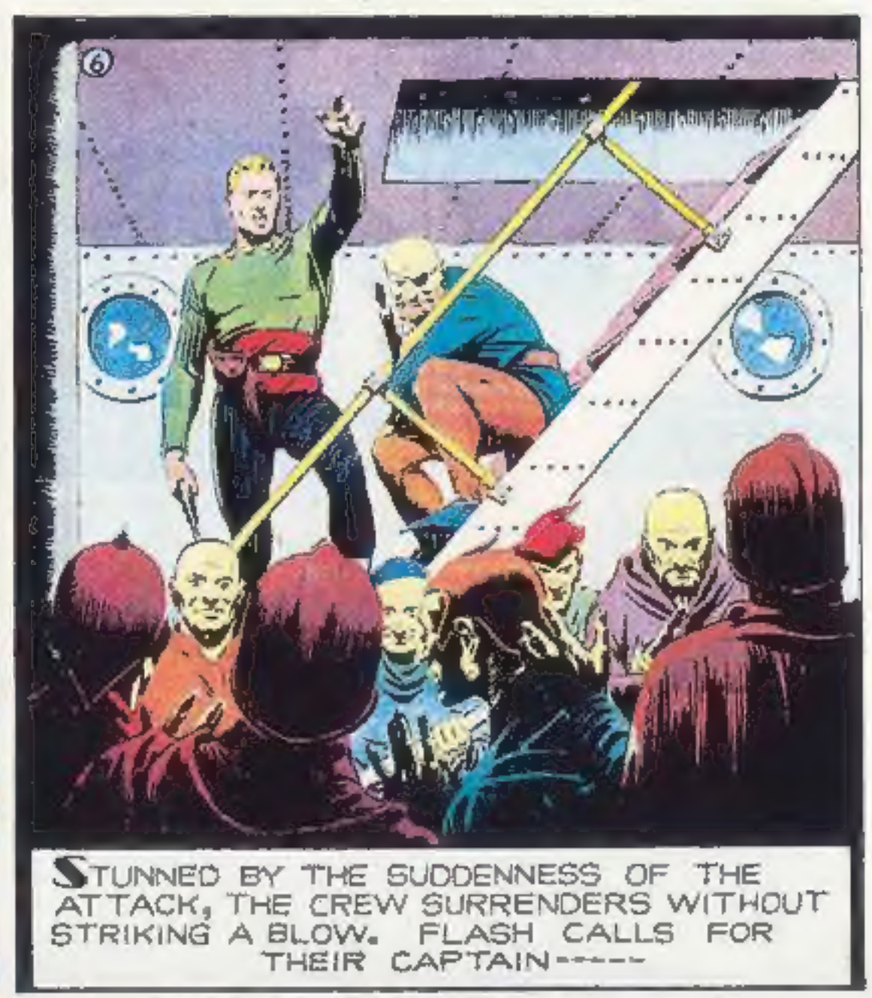

MING'S ROCKET SUBMARINES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FLAGSHIP, ARE RIDING AT ANCHOR, DESERTED!
THE CREWS ARE ON EMERGENCY DUTY IN THE FLOODED PARTS OF THE CITY--THIS IS OUR BIG CHANCE!
KUGOR RETURNS TO THE FREEMEN'S ISLAND WITH A CAPTURED POWER-BOAT AND VALUABLE INFORMATION-----


FLASH TAKES LEAVE OF DALE-----
GOODBYE, DARLING--I'LL COUNT THE SECONDS 'TIL YOU RETURN!
TRY NOT TO WORRY--WE'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.


WITH FOUR VOLUNTEERS CRAMMED INTO THE AFT LOCKER, FLASH SETS OUT FOR THE NAVY DOCKS-----

FLASH CUTS THE SILENT ELECTRIC MOTOR TO HALF-SPEED AND GLIDES BETWEEN THE ROWS OF ROCKET SUBMARINES, UNDER THE BRISTLING GUNS OF THE FORTS-----

THE BAREFOOTED MEN CLIMB STEALTHILY ABOARD THE FLAGSHIP-----


STUNNED BY THE SUDDENNESS OF THE ATTACK, THE CREW SURRENDERS WITHOUT STRIKING A BLOW. FLASH CALLS FOR THEIR CAPTAIN-----

WELCOME, FLASH GORDON! YOU CAN HAVE THIS OLD TUB--BUT, BY MY BEARD, I, CAPTAIN SUDIN, GO WITH IT!
NEXT WEEK: MUTINEERS

BY TAO'S BIG TOE, FLASH, I'VE WAITED FOR THE DAY WHEN I COULD CAST MY LOT WITH YOU!
GREAT! WITH MEN LIKE YOU, WE'LL SOON DRIVE MING FROM HIS THRONE!
CAPTAIN SUDIN HAS SURRENDERED THE FLAGSHIP OF MING'S ROCKET SUBMARINES TO FLASH'S RAIDING PARTY.

AFTER SINKING THE REMAINING SHIPS BY OPENING THEIR SUBMERGING VALVES, FLASH AND HIS FREEMEN STEER THEIR SUBMARINE TOWARD HOME.

THEIR RETURN IS THE SIGNAL FOR REJOICING IN THE FREEMEN'S HIDEOUT IN THE BASEMENT OF THE ROYAL TOMBS. DALE'S TAP DANCING BRING'S ROARS OF APPROVAL.

A SAILOR ---
---REPORTS TO CAPTAIN SUDIN.
SIR, WE GOT A BROADCAST THAT MING HAS IMPRISONED THE ENTIRE NAVY FOR MUTINY!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE! WITH FLASH'S HELP, WE'LL RESCUE THEM AND WIN THE NAVY TO OUR SIDE!

LANDING FROM THEIR CAPTURED SUBMARINE WHICH THEY LEAVE HALF-SUBMERGED, THE FREEMEN CREEP UP TO MING'S NAVY YARD. FLASH WONDERS AT THE ABSENCE OF SENTRIES----

SUDDENLY, HE REALIZES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TRICKED, AS THEY ARE CAUGHT IN THE BEAM OF A POWERFUL SEARCHLIGHT!
NEXT WEEK:-
WIPED OUT!
6-26

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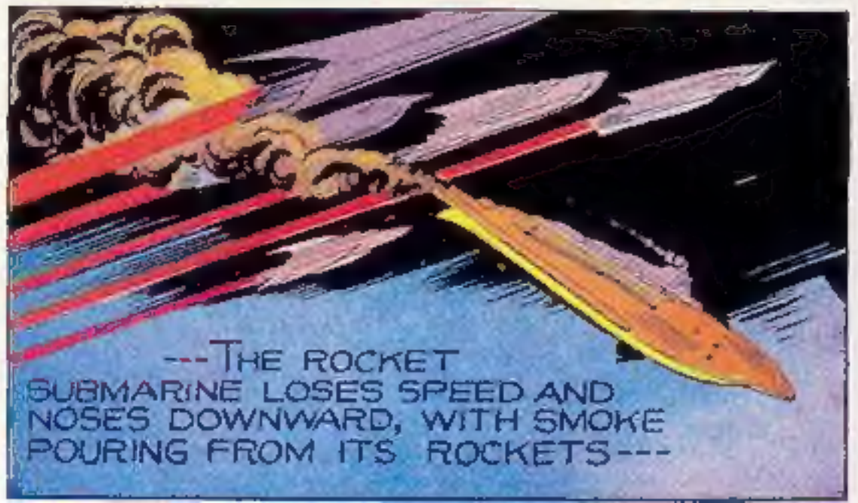
WITH SOME OF HIS MEN TRAPPED IN MING'S NAVY YARD, FLASH TAKES OFF IN A CAPTURED ROCKET SUBMARINE TO GO TO THEIR RESCUE-----
ALL RIGHT, HELMSMAN, DIVE AT TWENTY DEGREES--- TORPEDO-MAN, STAND BY---
I ONLY HOPE BULOK WAS ABLE TO HOLD OUT.

THE GREAT SHIP DROPS ITS DEADLY CARGO IN A SERIES OF SCREAMING DIVES---

SUDIN MAKES A DARING LANDING--- BULOK'S MEN DASH FOR THE SHIP UNDER A TERRIFIC BOMBARDMENT-----

---THE BAT-TERED ROCKET SUBMARINE GETS AWAY, ONLY TO BE CHASED BY MING'S ROCKET FLEET----

WE'RE SLOW--BEING A SUBMARINE, AS WELL AS A ROCKET SHIP. CAN WE PRETEND TO FALL OUT OF CONTROL AND ESCAPE AS A SUBMAR-INE?
IF THE IMPACT DOES NOT CRUSH US---


---THE ROCKET SUBMARINE LOSES SPEED AND NOSES DOWNWARD, WITH SMOKE POURING FROM ITS ROCKETS---

THE WATCHERS ON THE ISLAND ARE HORROR-STRUCK AT WHAT APPEARS TO BE FLASH'S DOOM!
NEXT WEEK: OUT OF THE DEPTHS

FLASH AND SUDIN DIVE THEIR DAMAGED ROCKET SUBMARINE TO AVOID MING'S FAST RAIDERS--THEY HIT THE WATER WITH TREMENDOUS FORCE----

WOW! WE MUST HAVE STRUCK BOTTOM!
WE'RE STUCK IN THE MUD--AND BADLY SMASHED! PREPARE TO DESERT SHIP!

FLASH, THERE'S ONE HELMET LEFT--AS CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP, I ORDER YOU TO TAKE IT.
CAPTAIN'S ORDERS? WELL---HOW DO WE GET OUT?

THIS SHOOTS YOU OUT, SO YOU FLOAT TO THE SURFACE. IT'S RISKY FOR THE LAST MAN, EVEN WITH A HELMET--SO DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR ME---
IN THE TORPEDO CHAMBER-----

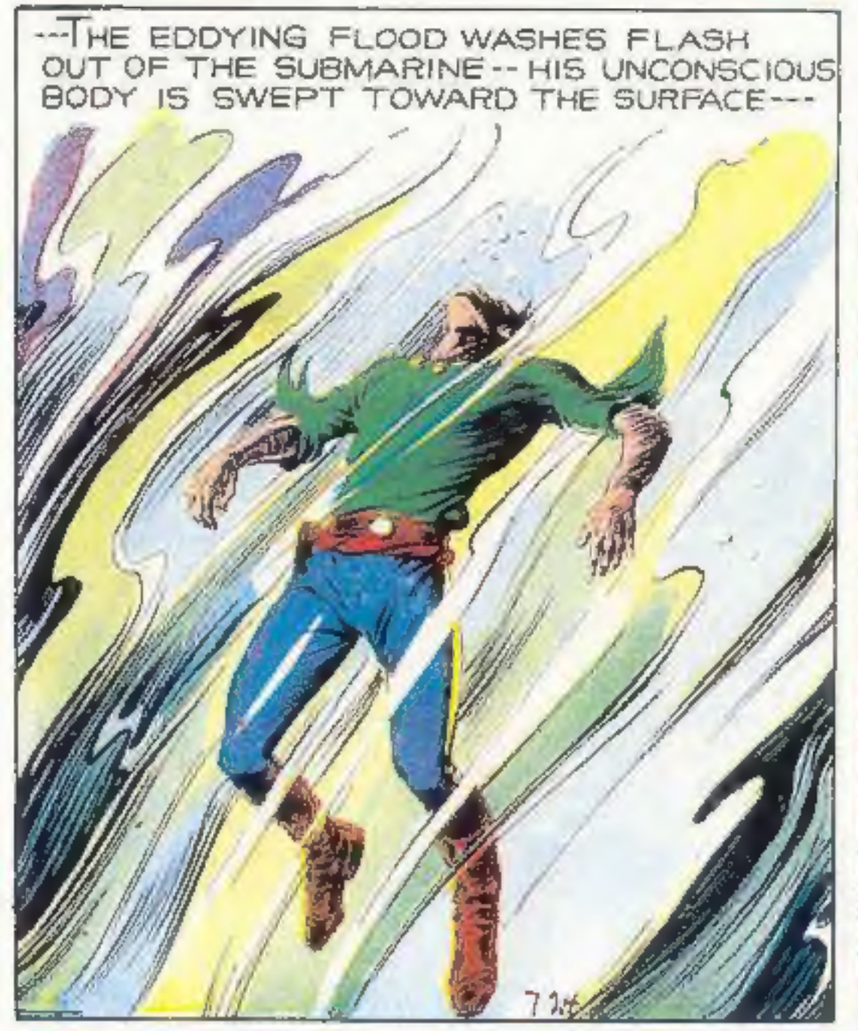
IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD TO ARGUE, SUDIN--AND NONE OF YOUR MEN ARE HERE TO HELP YOU. YOU'RE GOING NEXT--EVEN IF I HAVE TO USE FORCE--AND YOU CAN'T FIGHT BACK WITH THAT BAD SHOULDER!
BUT, FLASH---MONGO LOOKS TO YOU FOR ITS FREEDOM! PLEASE BE REASONABLE--I'M UNIMPORTANT!

GOOD HEAVENS, SUDIN--WHERE IS FLASH?
HE--HE FORCED ME TO GO AHEAD OF HIM--HE'S BACK THERE IN THE SHIP!
NEXT WEEK: UNDERSEA TOMB!

FLASH IS TRAPPED ALONE IN A SUNKEN SUBMARINE -----
IT SANK ABOUT HERE--
BUT HE MAY ESCAPE SOMEHOW-- AND WE'LL BE HERE TO RESCUE HIM!
THIS IS A WILD GOOSE CHASE, DALE--HE'S DOWN TOO DEEP AND WE HAVE NO DIVING EQUIPMENT.

I CAN'T ESCAPE BY WAY OF THE TORPEDO EJECTOR, BUT I HAVE AN IDEA--I'LL FIRE ALL THE GUNS ON THE SHIP-- THE SHOCK MAY FREE IT FROM THE RIVER BOTTOM!

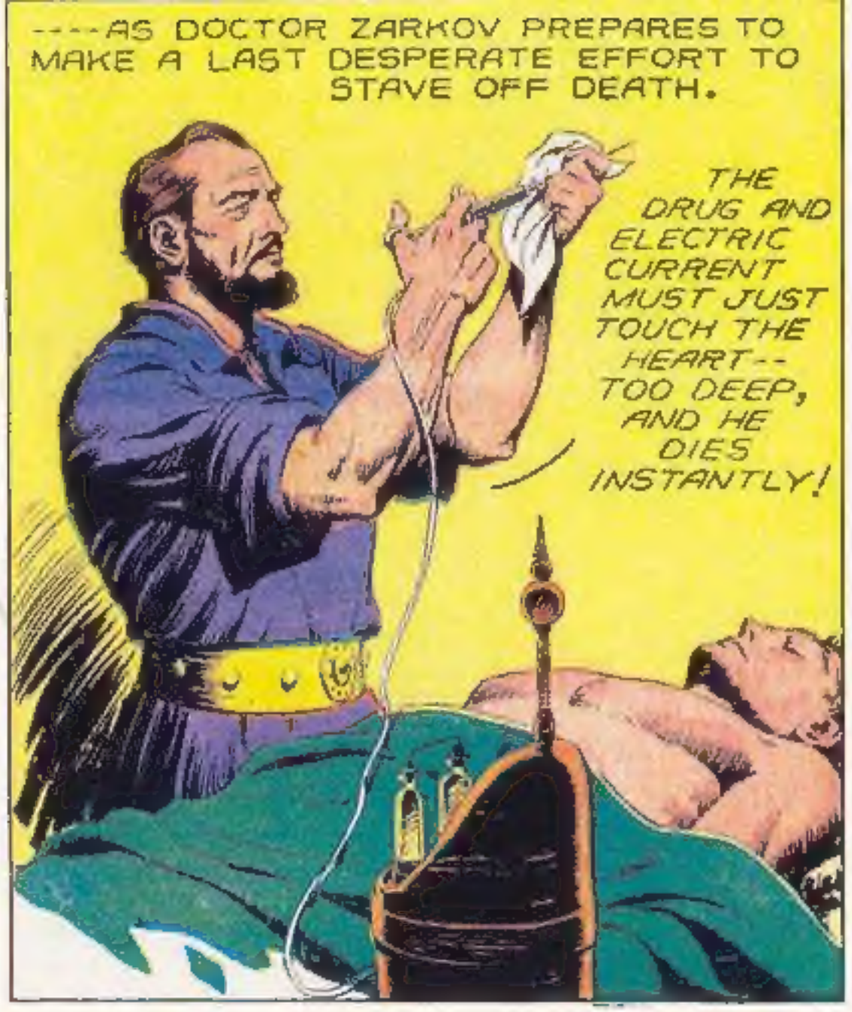
BUT THE TREMENDOUS FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION MERELY RENDS THE ALREADY WEAKENED SEAMS--WATER DESCENDS ON FLASH IN A CRUSHING TORRENT!-----


--THE EDDYING FLOOD WASHES FLASH OUT OF THE SUBMARINE--HIS UNCONSCIOUS BODY IS SWEPT TOWARD THE SURFACE---

--THE TINY BOAT ROCKS ON THE WILDLY DISTURBED SURFACE OF THE RIVER--- SUDDENLY, DALE LEAPS TO HER FEET---
I SEE HIM!

OH, ZARKOV, HE MUST LIVE!
I'LL DO EVERY-THING IN MY POWER, DALE, BUT THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF LIFE!
NEXT WEEK: THE CAMOUFLAGED CITY

AFTER THE SUBMARINE EXPLOSION, FLASH HOVERS BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH. HIS FRIENDS STAND BY IN DEATHLY SILENCE, DREADING THE OUTCOME-----


----AS DOCTOR ZARKOV PREPARES TO MAKE A LAST DESPERATE EFFORT TO STAVE OFF DEATH.
THE DRUG AND ELECTRIC CURRENT MUST JUST TOUCH THE HEART-- TOO DEEP, AND HE DIES INSTANTLY!

FLASH RESPONDS TO THE HEROIC TREATMENT----
EASY, DALE--HE'S STILL A VERY SICK YOUNG MAN!
MY DARLING-- MY DARLING!

A FEW DAYS IN THE WARM SUNSHINE, WITH DALE AS HIS NURSE, WORK WONDERS FOR FLASH

DURING HIS CONVALESCENCE, HE AND DALE PLAN A SAFER HIDEOUT FOR THEIR BRAVE FOLLOWERS---
WE'LL DIG A SERIES OF DUGOUTS CONNECTED BY TRENCHES--AND COVER THEM WITH THATCHED ROOFS AND SOD, MAKING THEM INVISIBLE FROM THE AIR.

WITHIN A WEEK, THE FREEMEN'S CAMOUFLAGED SETTLEMENT IS COMPLETED----
NEXT WEEK: THE SHADOW OF MING!

I HATE THESE CROWDED HIDE-OUTS!
QUIT COMPLAINING, SISTER!
HUSH--LISTEN!
I'M SO GLAD WE'RE OUT OF THOSE DISMAL TOMBS AT LAST!
FLASH'S FREEMEN HAVE BUILT A CAMOUFLAGED CITY ON THE ISLAND OF THE TOMBS-----

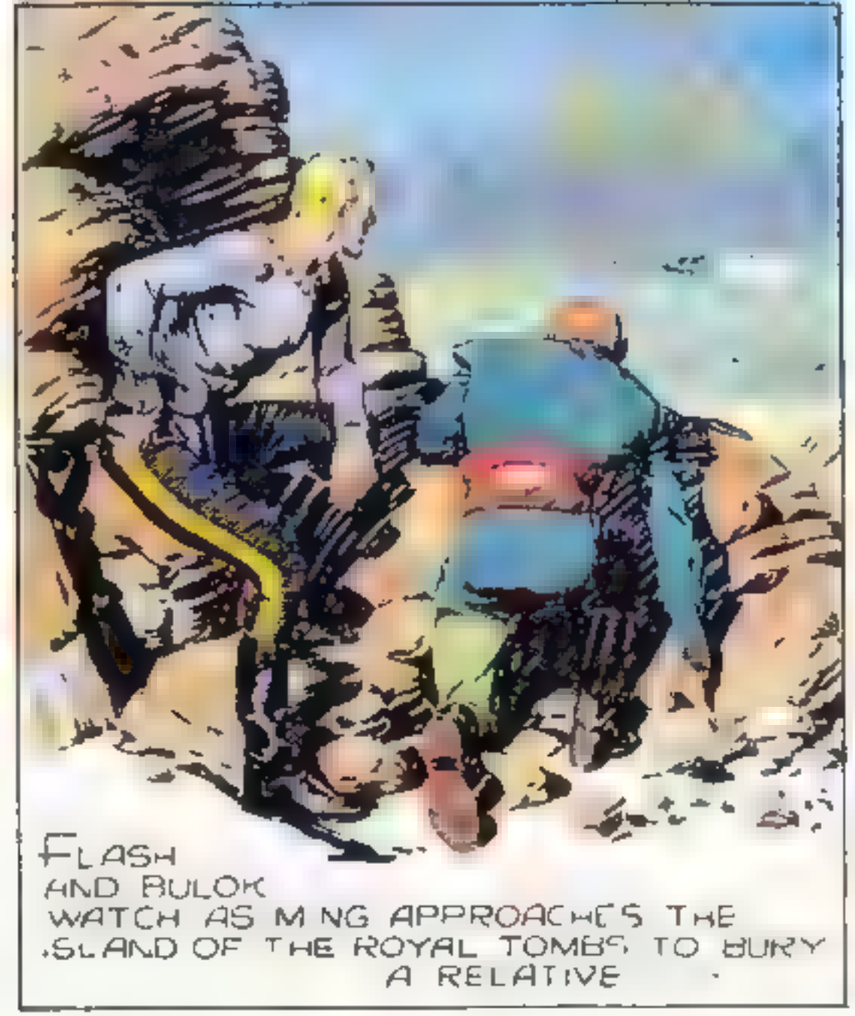
MING'S ROCKET PLANES! NOW WE'LL FIND OUT WHETHER WE'RE WELL-HIDDEN---

THAT'S FINE--THEY NEVER SPOTTED US!
OH, FLASH--I'M SO FRIGHTENED! LET'S GET AWAY FROM ALL THIS!

SONJA, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT NONE OF US IS ENJOYING THIS--YOU CAN HELP ALL OF US A GREAT DEAL BY KEEPING YOUR CHIN UP!
FLASH GORDON, YOU'RE A FOOL!

FLASH--WE'LL BE DISCOVERED! MING IS COMING TO THE ISLAND THIS AFTERNOON, TO BURY HIS UNCLE!
QUICK--SOUND THE ALARM!
87

WE'RE CAUGHT! WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT!
---OR SWIM FOR IT!
NO! WE'LL STAY---AND SET A TRAP FOR MING!
NEXT WEEK:- A TRAP FOR AN EMPEROR~

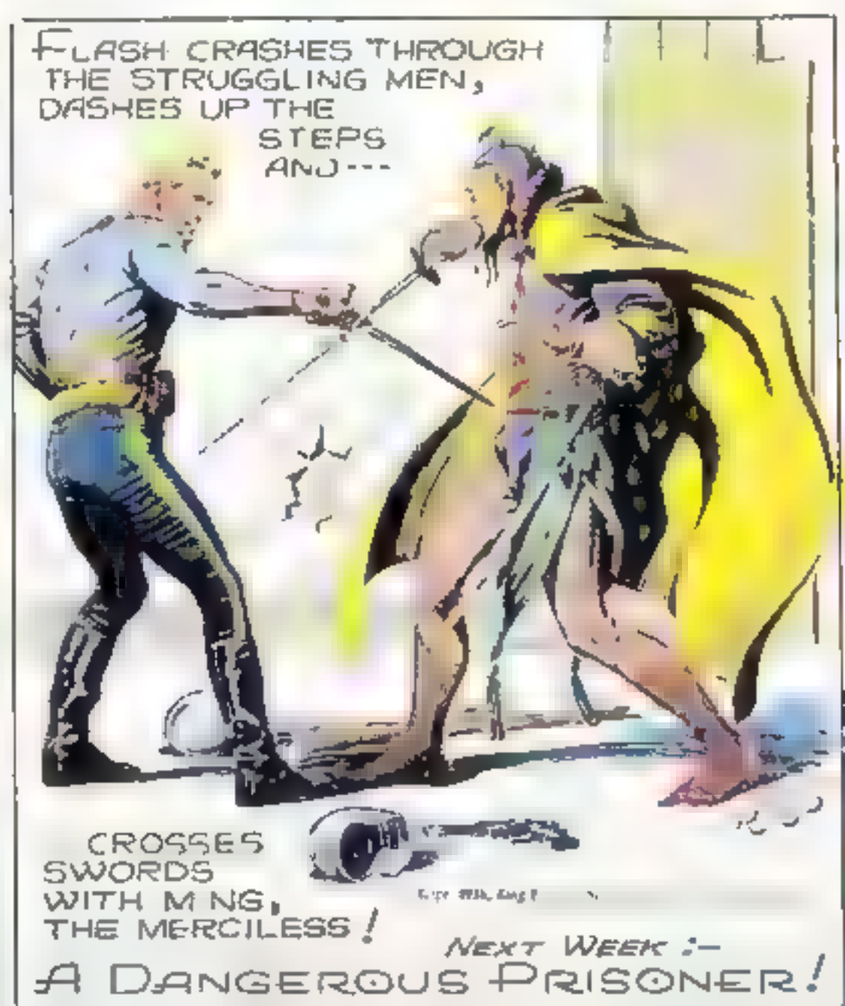

FLASH
AND BULOK
WATCH AS M NG APPROACHES THE
SLAND OF THE ROYAL TOMBS TO BURY
A RELATIVE

AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY,
LONEL--MOST FITTING
IT'S UN-
HAD TO DIE SO
SUDDENLY--BUT
THEN, HE
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
PLOTTED
TO
SEIZE
THE
THRONE!

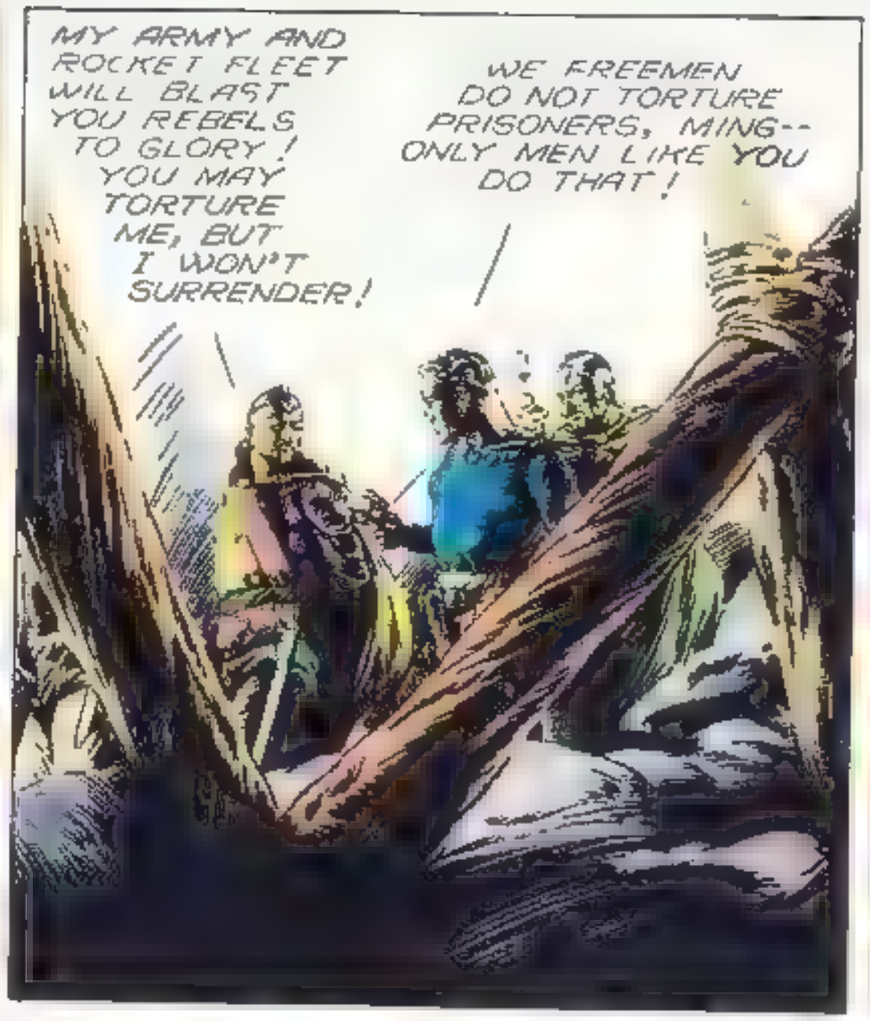
FLASH
RA SES HIS SWORD---AND A ROAR
BURSTS FROM THE THROATS OF HIS
FOLLOWERS AS THEY POUR FROM THE
WOODS IN A WILD CHARGE!

MING'S SUPERIOR WEAPONS TAKE A
TERRIBLE
TOLL ----
SUDIN--SUDIN!
IS IT--BAD?
--I'M AFRAID SO, OLD FRIEND---
BUT I DON'T MIND---GOING---THIS
WAY---STRIKE HARD, FLASH---FOR
FREEDOM!

----THE
RAW
COURAGE
AND BLIND
FURY OF THE
FREEMEN'S
CHARGE BREAKS
THE MORALE OF
MING'S MEN, CAUSING
THEM TO FALL BACK
IN DISORDER.
8 14

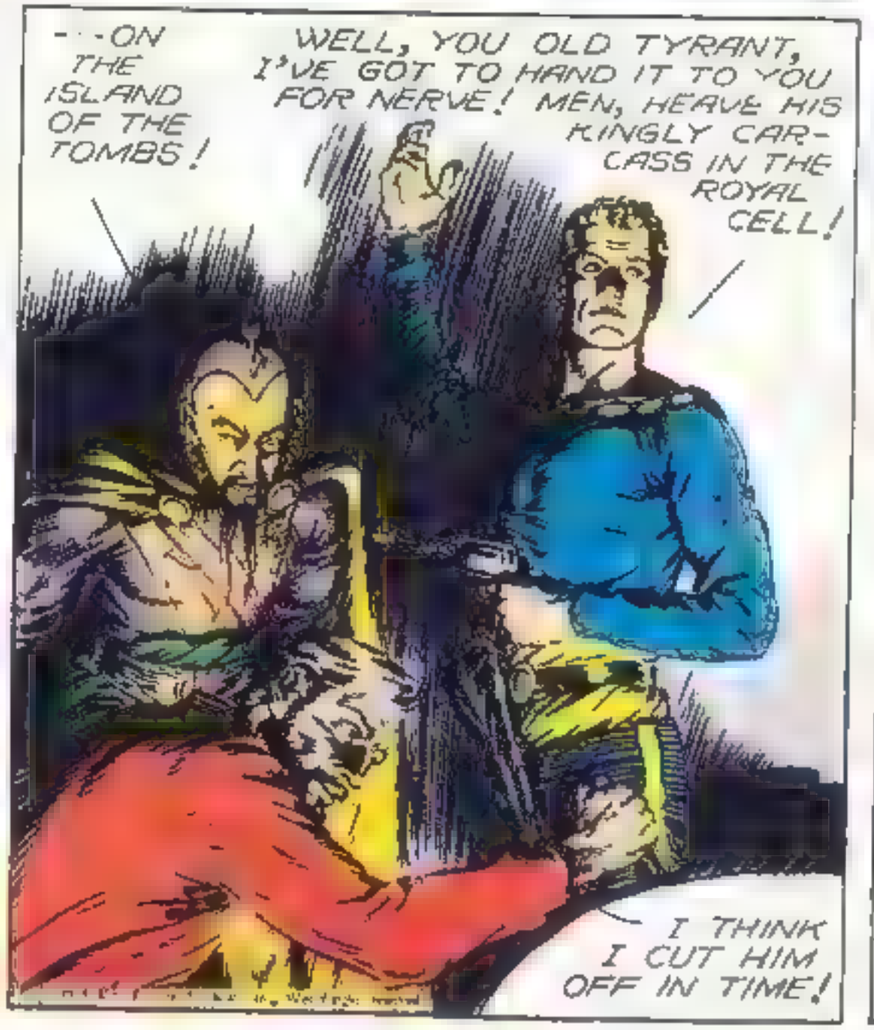

FLASH CRASHES THROUGH
THE STRUGGLING MEN,
DASHES UP THE
STEPS
AND---
CROSSES
SWORDS
WITH M NG,
THE MERCILESS!
NEXT WEEK :-
A DANGEROUS PRISONER!

WILL YOU SURRENDER, OR SHALL I PIN YOU TO THE TREE?
NEVER!--SOLDIERS, FIGHT THESE REBELS, OR I'LL HANG YOU ALL FOR TRAITORS!
MING, THE MERCILESS, HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY A CLEVER TRAP!----

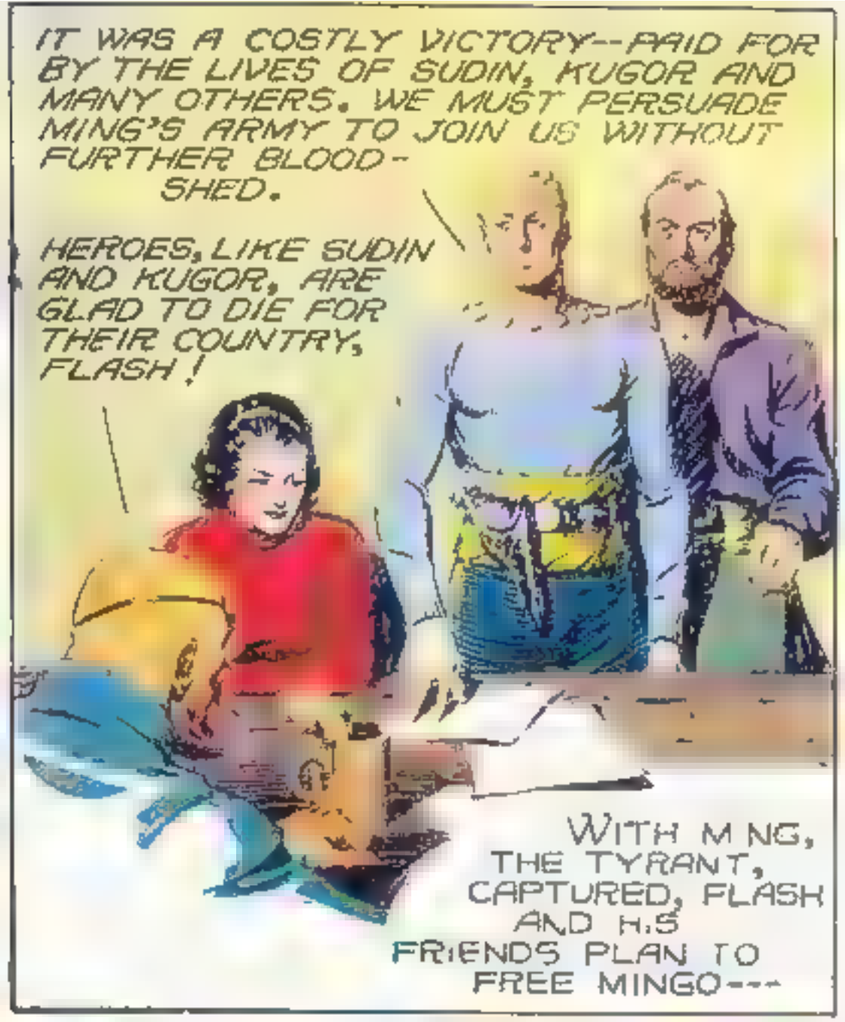

MY ARMY AND ROCKET FLEET WILL BLAST YOU REBELS TO GLORY! YOU MAY TORTURE ME, BUT I WON'T SURRENDER!
WE FREEMEN DO NOT TORTURE PRISONERS, MING--ONLY MEN LIKE YOU DO THAT!

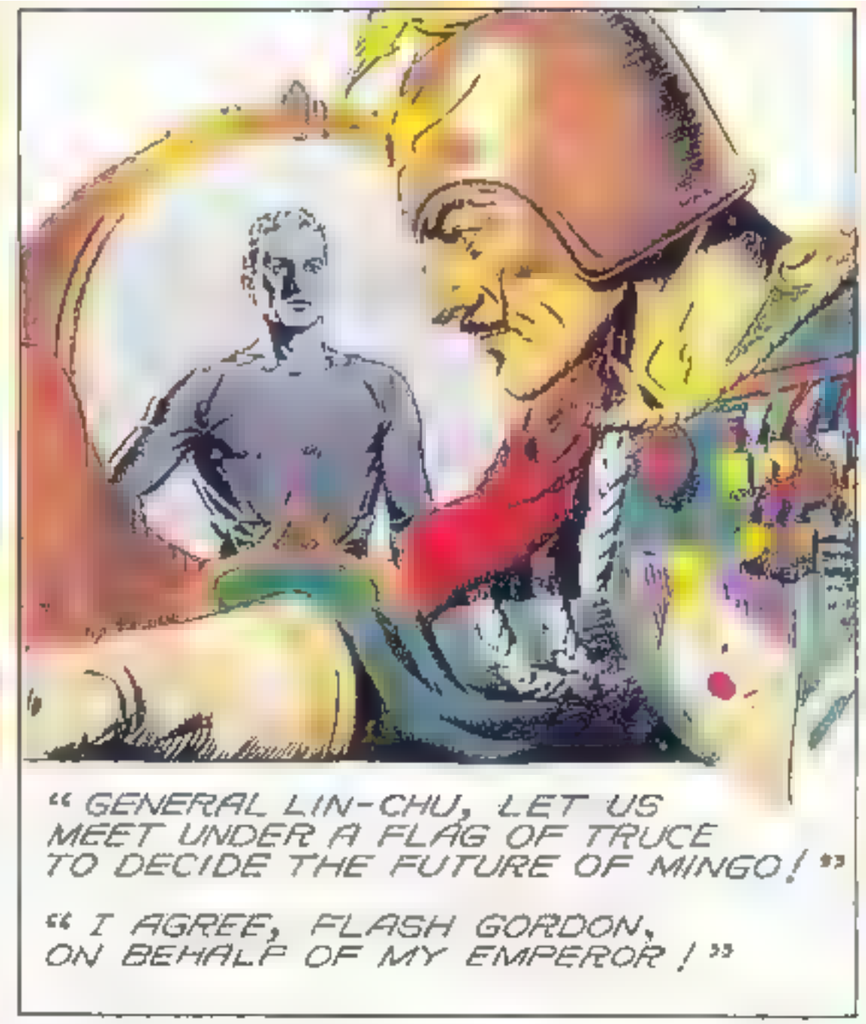
ATTENTION, ALL THE EMPIRE OF MINGO! MING, THE MERCILESS, IS THE PRISONER OF FLASH GORDON, THE LIBERATOR! TO PROVE IT, HERE IS MING!

MINGO IS NOW A FREE REPUBLIC--MING, TELL YOUR ARMY TO THROW DOWN ITS WEAPONS!
NO! SOLDIERS, FIGHT FOR YOUR EMPEROR--DESTROY THE REBELS! I AM HELD PRISONER ON---
8-31

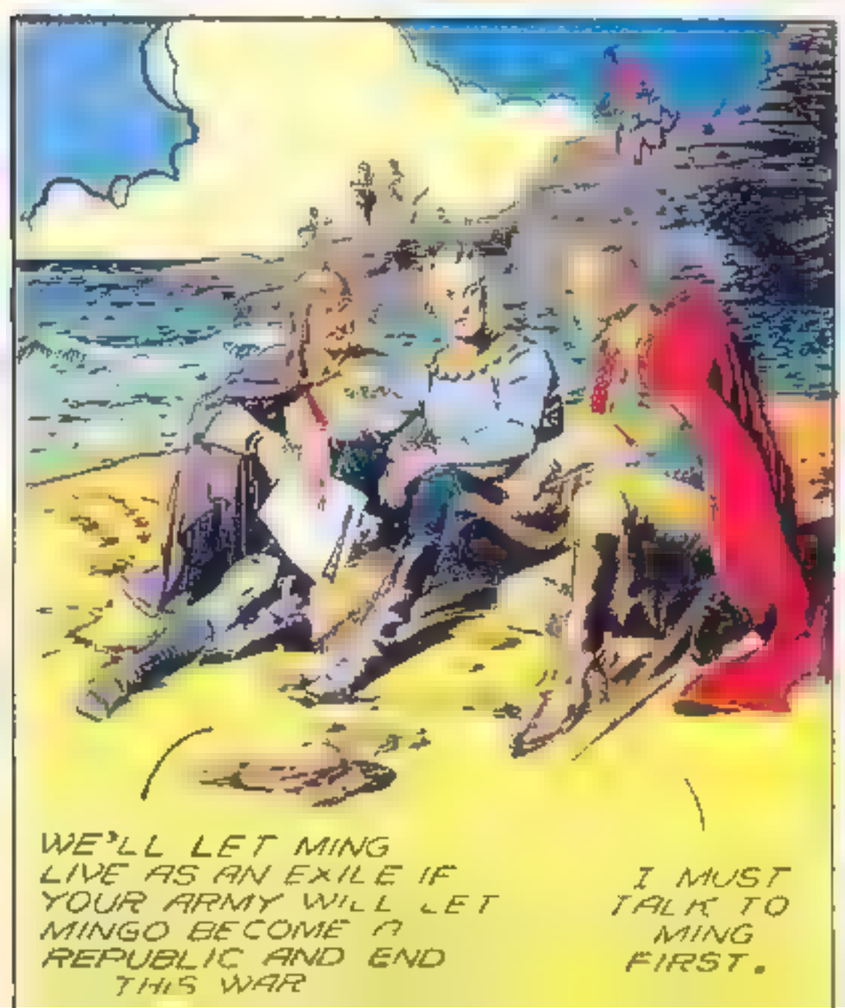

---ON THE ISLAND OF THE TOMBS!
WELL, YOU OLD TYRANT, I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU FOR NERVE! MEN, HEAVE HIS KINGLY CARCASS IN THE ROYAL CELL!
I THINK I CUT HIM OFF IN TIME!

SO THE MIGHTY MING HAS FALLEN TO THIS!
MARK MY WORDS, GIRL I'LL BE BACK ON MY THRONE SOON--AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT ON MY SIDE WILL SUFFER!
NEXT WEEK:-
AN EMPIRE AT STAKE!


IT WAS A COSTLY VICTORY--PAID FOR BY THE LIVES OF SUDIN, KUGOR AND MANY OTHERS. WE MUST PERSUADE MING'S ARMY TO JOIN US WITHOUT FURTHER BLOOD-SHED.
HEROES, LIKE SUDIN AND KUGOR, ARE GLAD TO DIE FOR THEIR COUNTRY, FLASH!
WITH MING, THE TYRANT, CAPTURED, FLASH AND HIS FRIENDS PLAN TO FREE MINGO---


"GENERAL LIN-CHU, LET US MEET UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE TO DECIDE THE FUTURE OF MINGO!"
"I AGREE, FLASH GORDON, ON BEHALF OF MY EMPEROR!"

FLASH AND GENERAL LIN CHU AGREE TO MEET ON A NEUTRAL ISLAND----


WE'LL LET MING LIVE AS AN EXILE IF YOUR ARMY WILL LET MINGO BECOME A REPUBLIC AND END THIS WAR
I MUST TALK TO MING FIRST.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TALK TO MING, THE MERCILESS--COULD YOU ARRANGE TO LET ME INTO HIS CELL?
---ER--- -- AH--- ALL RIGHT, MISS SON JA.
MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE FREEMENS ISLAND HIDEOUT---

MUST I BE ANNOYED BY MEMBERS OF THIS REBELLIOUS RABBLE?
I THINK YOUR MAJESTY WILL BE INTERESTED IN MY SUGGESTIONS--YOU SEE, FLASH GORDON AND I NO LONGER AGREE-
NEXT WEEK. TREACHERY!

YES--I HATE FLASH! IF YOU WILL MAKE ME YOUR EMPRESS, I WILL HELP YOU ESCAPE AND REGAIN YOUR THRONE!

WHAT! MAKE YOU MY EMPRESS? HA!

SONJA BRIBES HER WAY INTO THE CELL OF FLASH'S CAPTIVE, EMPEROR MING, THE MERCILESS.

I AM OF NOBLE BLOOD--BEFORE MY EXILE, I WAS COUNTESS SONJA. WITHOUT MY HELP, YOU'RE NOT AN EMPEROR, BUT A PRISONER. AM I SO UGLY, MING?

YOU ARE RIGHT. BY TAO, I SWEAR TO MAKE YOU MY EMPRESS!

I GUESS THERE WAS NO HARM IN LETTING YOU TALK TO HIM--WAS THERE, MISS SONJA?

NO--- NO HARM.

YOU UNDERSTAND, GENERAL LIN CHU, WHY WE MUST BLINDFOLD YOU BEFORE TAKING YOU TO MING---

NATURALLY, YOU MUST KEEP YOUR HIDING-PLACE A SECRET.

MEANWHILE, UNDER THE FLAG OF TRUCE---

WE ONLY WANT PEACE AND FREEDOM FOR MINGO--

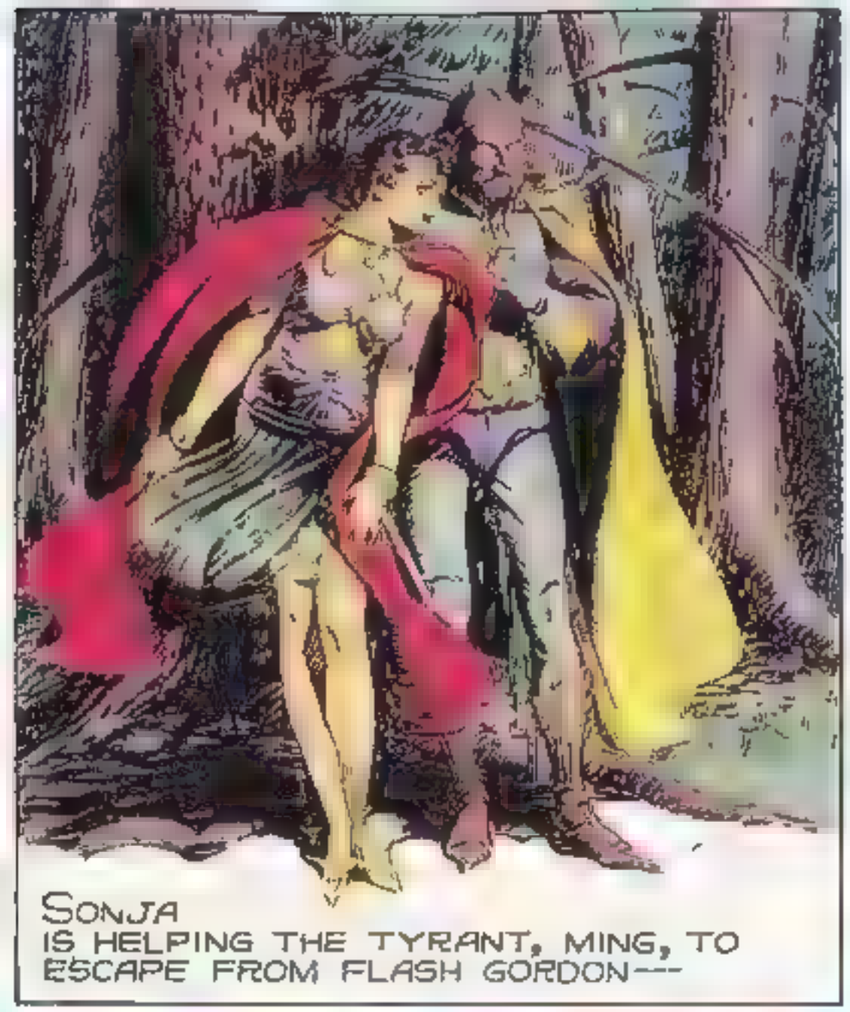
I PROMISE YOU, IF MING IS REALLY YOUR CAPTIVE, THAT MY ARMY WILL HELP YOU TO ESTABLISH THE REPUBLIC.

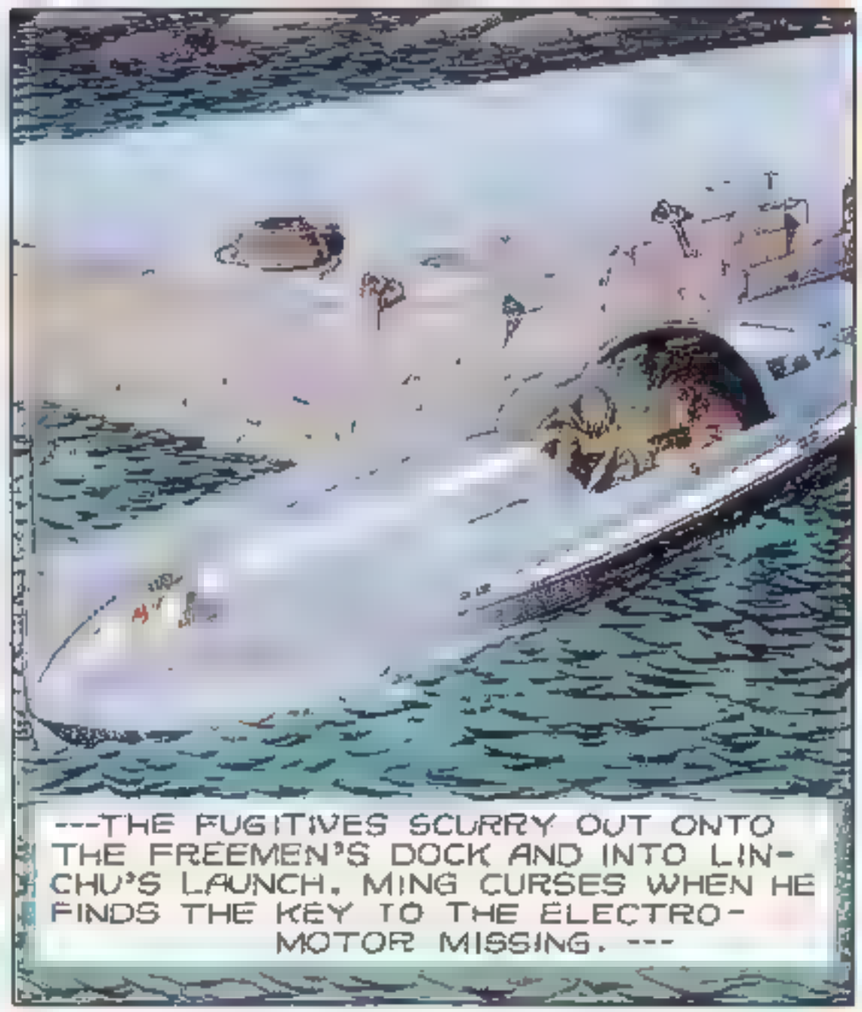
BACK ON THE FREEMEN'S ISLAND.

SONJA STABBED ME--- SHE SET MING FREE!

--MY SISTER - A TRAITOR!

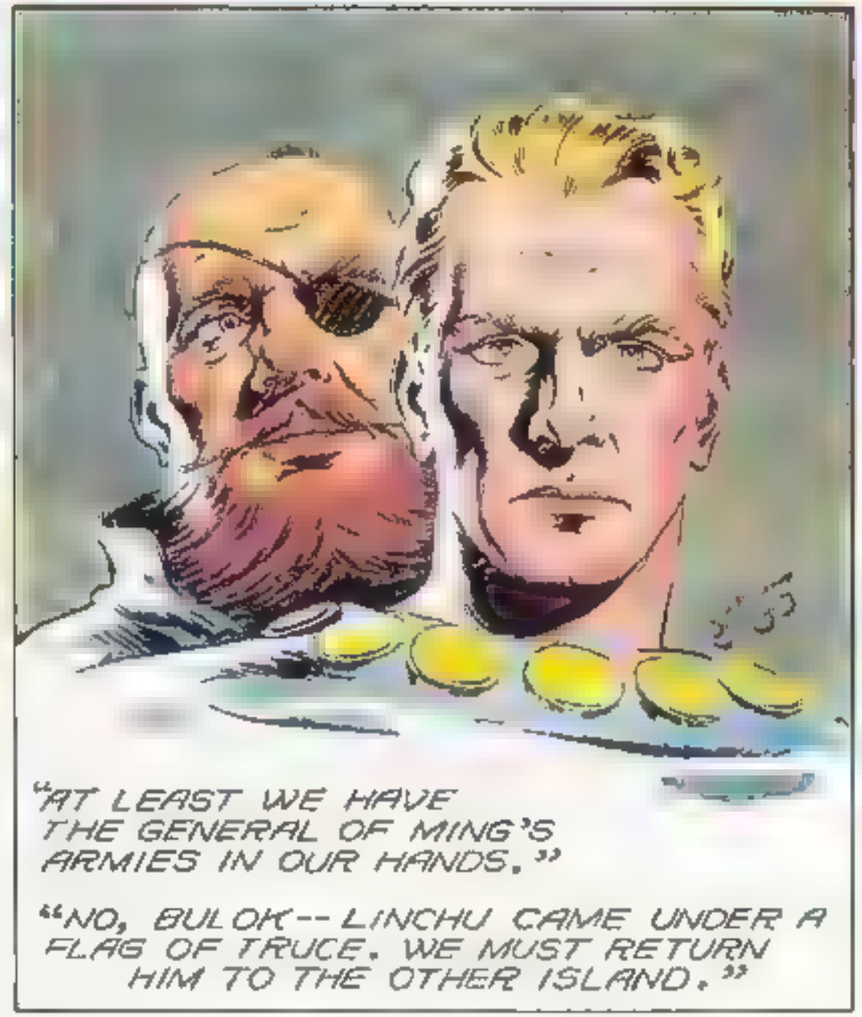
NEXT WEEK :- THE SEARCH

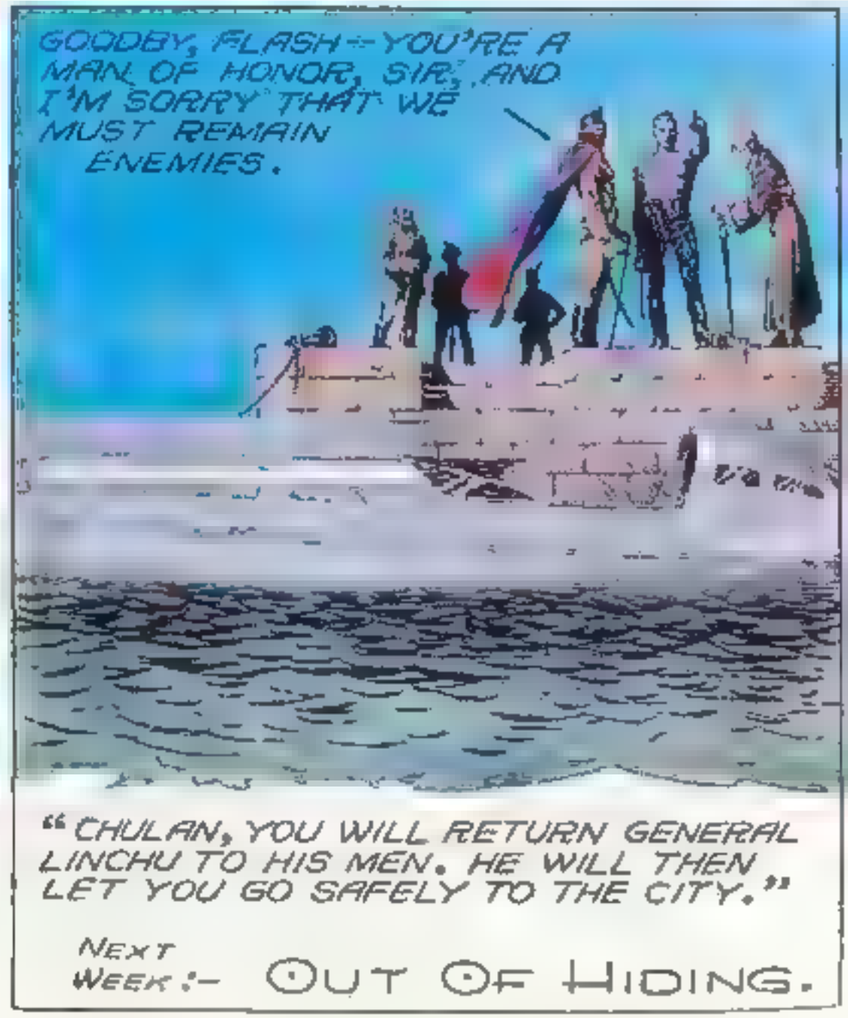

SONJA IS HELPING THE TYRANT, MING, TO ESCAPE FROM FLASH GORDON---

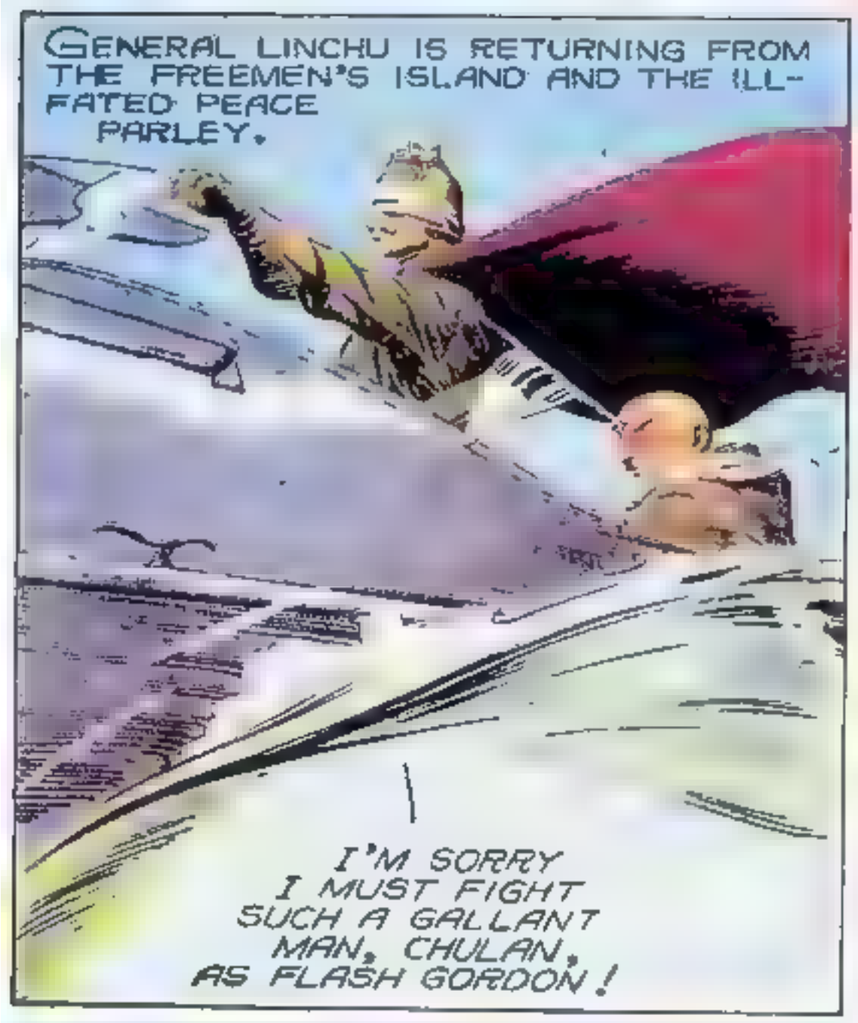

---THE FUGITIVES SCURRY OUT ONTO THE FREEMEN'S DOCK AND INTO LIN-CHU'S LAUNCH. MING CURSES WHEN HE FINDS THE KEY TO THE ELECTRO-MOTOR MISSING. ---

HERE THEY COME- WE CAN'T GET OFF THE BOAT!
INTO THIS LOCKER, QUICK! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

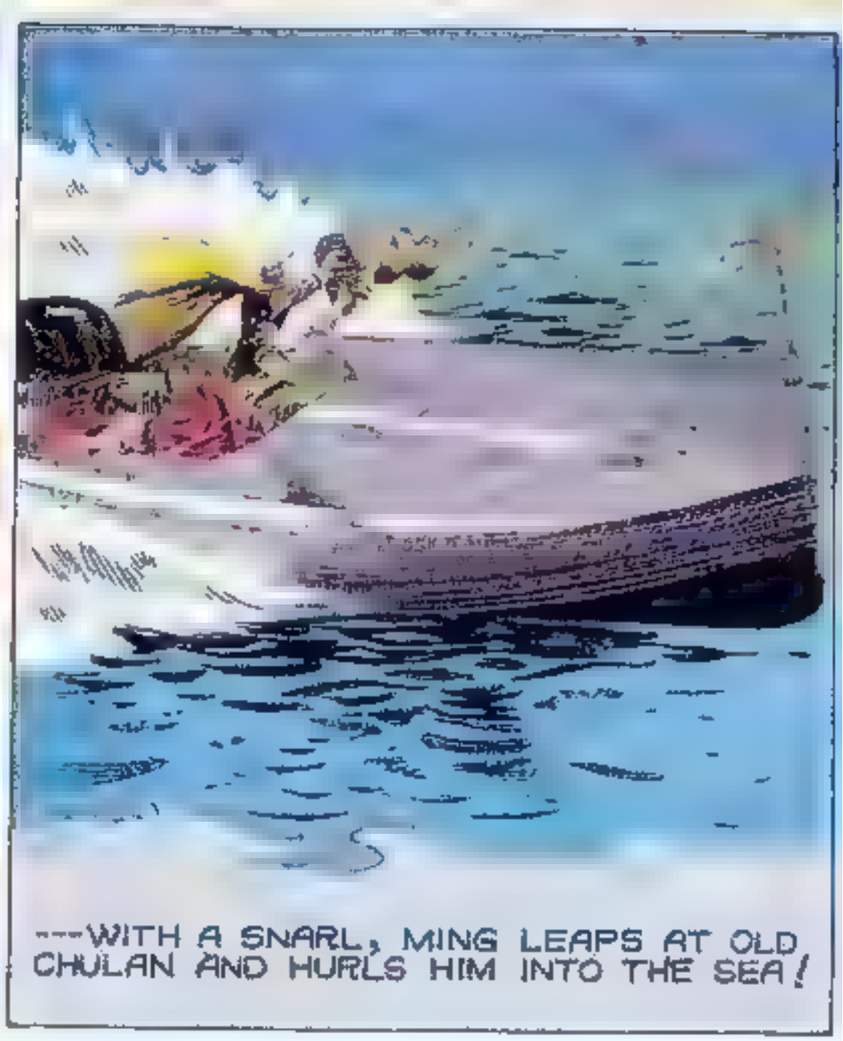
WE'VE COMBED THE WHOLE ISLAND. THEY MUST HAVE GOT AWAY BEFORE WE ARRIVED.


"AT LEAST WE HAVE THE GENERAL OF MING'S ARMIES IN OUR HANDS."
"NO, BULOK-- LINCHU CAME UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE. WE MUST RETURN HIM TO THE OTHER ISLAND."

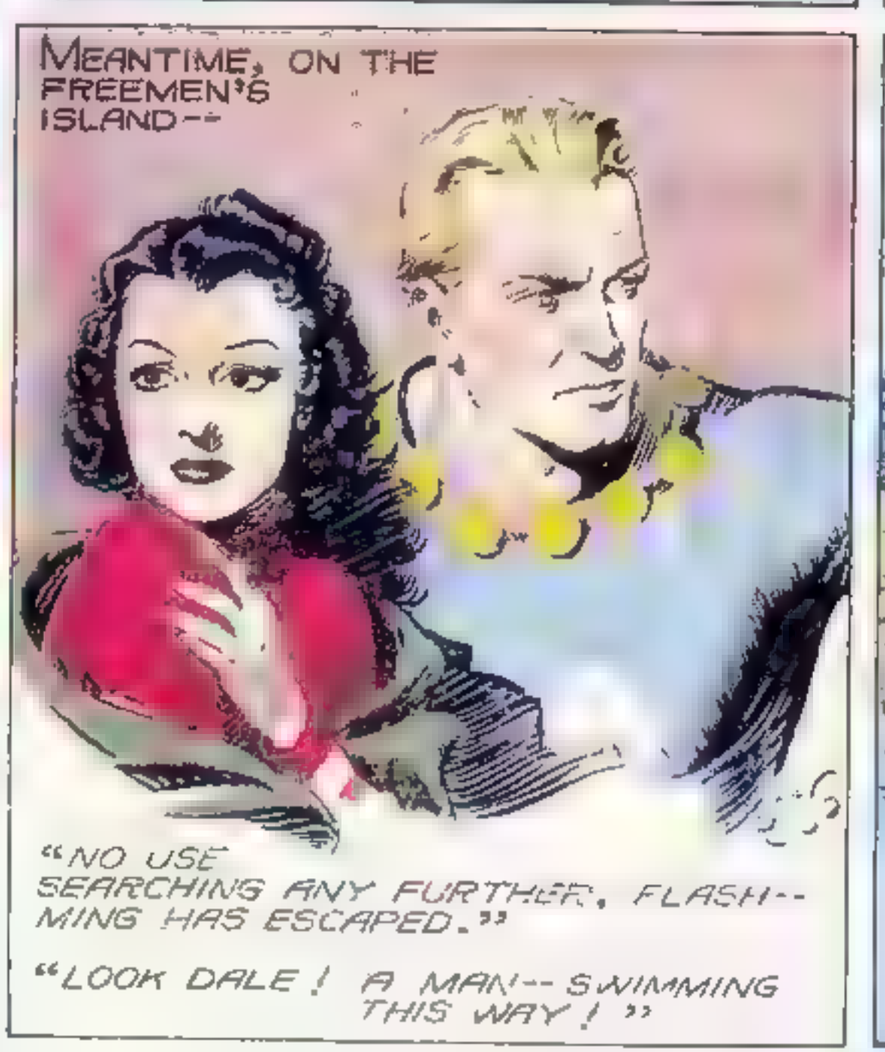

GOODBY, FLASH--YOU'RE A MAN OF HONOR, SIR, AND I'M SORRY THAT WE MUST REMAIN ENEMIES.
"CHULAN, YOU WILL RETURN GENERAL LINCHU TO HIS MEN. HE WILL THEN LET YOU GO SAFELY TO THE CITY."
NEXT WEEK:- OUT OF HIDING.

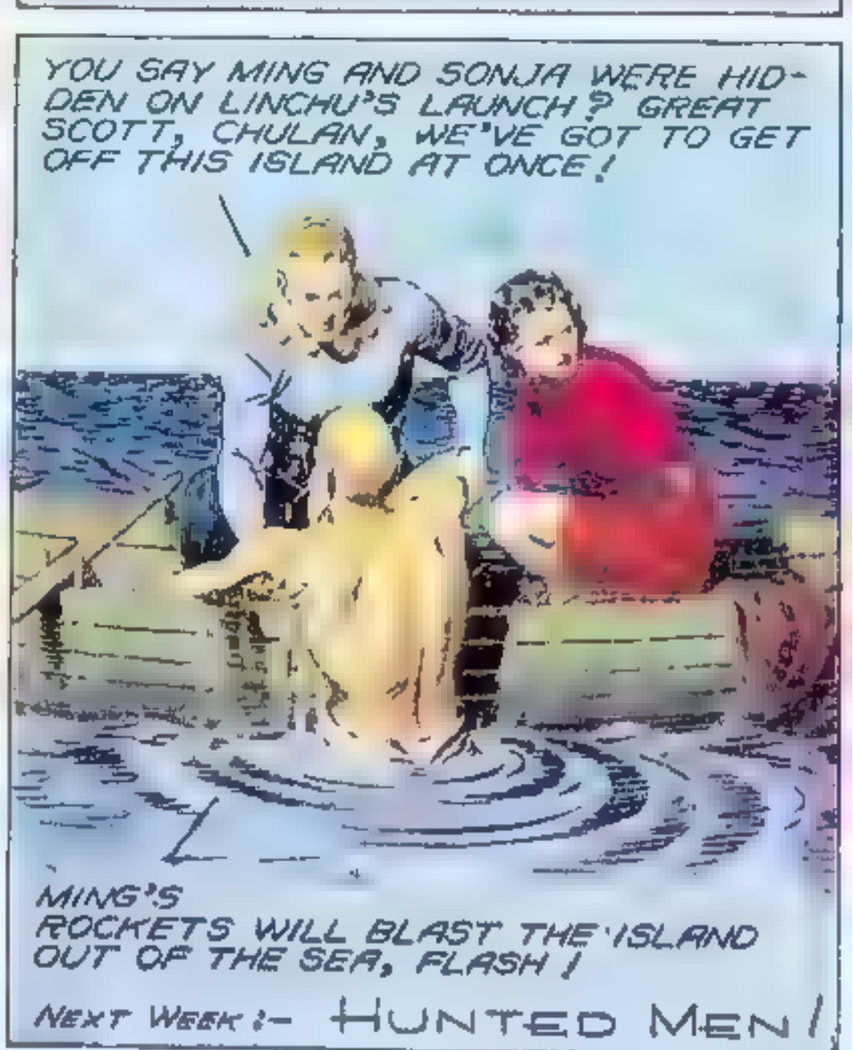

GENERAL LINCHU IS RETURNING FROM THE FREEMEN'S ISLAND AND THE ILL-FATED PEACE PARLEY.
I'M SORRY I MUST FIGHT SUCH A GALLANT MAN, CHULAN, AS FLASH GORDON!

---SUDDENLY, THE LOCKER DOOR BANGS OPEN--LINCHU SNATCHES OFF HIS BLIND-FOLD AND IS CONFRONTED BY MING'S LEERING FACE!


---WITH A SNARL, MING LEAPS AT OLD CHULAN AND HURLS HIM INTO THE SEA!

I WISH YOU HADN'T DONE THAT, SIRE--I GAVE MY WORD TO LET HIM GO FREE.
YOUR SENSE OF HONOR TOUCHES ME DEEPLY, LINCHU--CAREFUL, LEST SOME DAY I DEPRIVE YOU OF YOUR COMMAND OR YOUR HEAD! STEER FOR ARMY HEADQUARTERS.
9-18

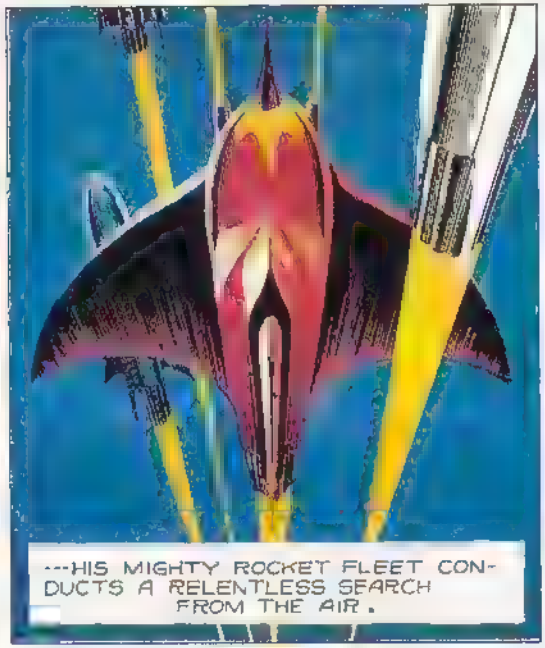

MEANTIME, ON THE FREEMEN'S ISLAND--
"NO USE SEARCHING ANY FURTHER, FLASH--MING HAS ESCAPED."
"LOOK DALE! A MAN--SWIMMING THIS WAY!"


YOU SAY MING AND SONJA WERE HIDDEN ON LINCHU'S LAUNCH? GREAT SCOTT, CHULAN, WE'VE GOT TO GET OFF THIS ISLAND AT ONCE!
MING'S ROCKETS WILL BLAST THE ISLAND OUT OF THE SEA, FLASH!
NEXT WEEK:- HUNTED MEN!

FLASH AND THE FREE-MEN FLEE TO A DESOLATE SHORE AND SINK THEIR BOATS TO COVER THEIR TRAIL.

MEANWHILE, AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS, MING IS INFORMED OF FLASH'S ESCAPE FROM THE TOMB ISLAND.
"I'M PREPARED TO OFFER THE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CAPTURE OF FLASH GORDON, DEAD OR ALIVE, A KINGDOM AND ONE MILLION GOLD MINGOLS!"

MING'S LIGHT CRUISERS SWEEP THE SEAS WITHIN A FIFTY-MILE RADIUS OF TOMB ISLAND---
9 25


---HIS MIGHTY ROCKET FLEET CONDUCTS A RELENTLESS SEARCH FROM THE AIR.

I'D MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO GET FARTHER INLAND--BUT WITH DAYBREAK ONLY AN HOUR OFF, WE'D BE SPOTTED SURE. WE'LL TRY IT TONIGHT.
NEXT WEEK:-
A TRAITOR'S REWARD.

BETRAYED BY SONJA, BULOK'S TRAITOROUS SISTER, FLASH AND THE FREEMEN HIDE FROM MING'S ARMIES.

OH, FLASH--WHERE CAN WE GO? I'M SO TIRED--AND HUNGRY--

OUR ONLY CHANCE, DALE, IS TO REACH ARBORIA, BARIN'S FOREST KINGDOM.

MEANWHILE, TRUE TO HIS WORD, MING REWARDS SONJA'S TREACHERY BY MARRYING HER AND CROWNING HER QUEEN OF MINGO AND EMPRESS OF ALL MONGO.

IMMEDIATELY UPON ASSUMING THEIR THRONES, MING RISES.

"NOW THAT I'VE KEPT MY PROMISE TO MAKE HER EMPRESS, TAKE THIS REBEL GIRL TO THE DUNGEONS AND EXECUTE HER AT ONCE!"

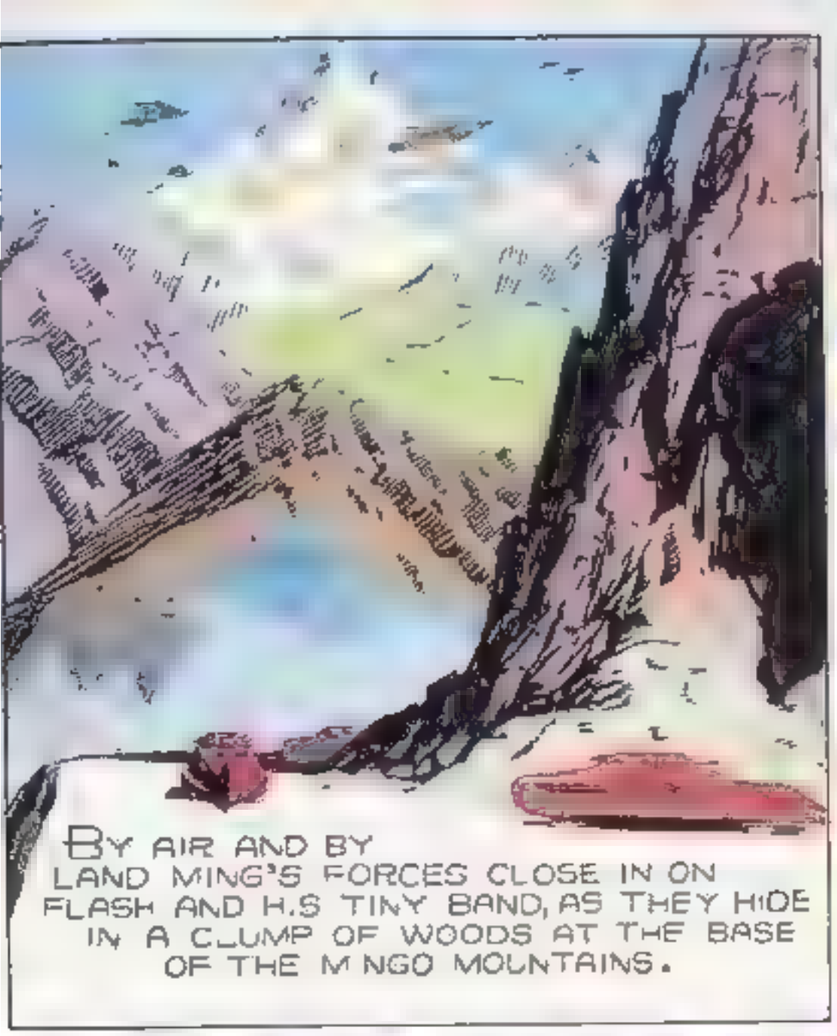
MING SITS ALONE IN HIS STUDY AS THE GREAT PALACE CHIMES START A MOURNFUL TOLLING.

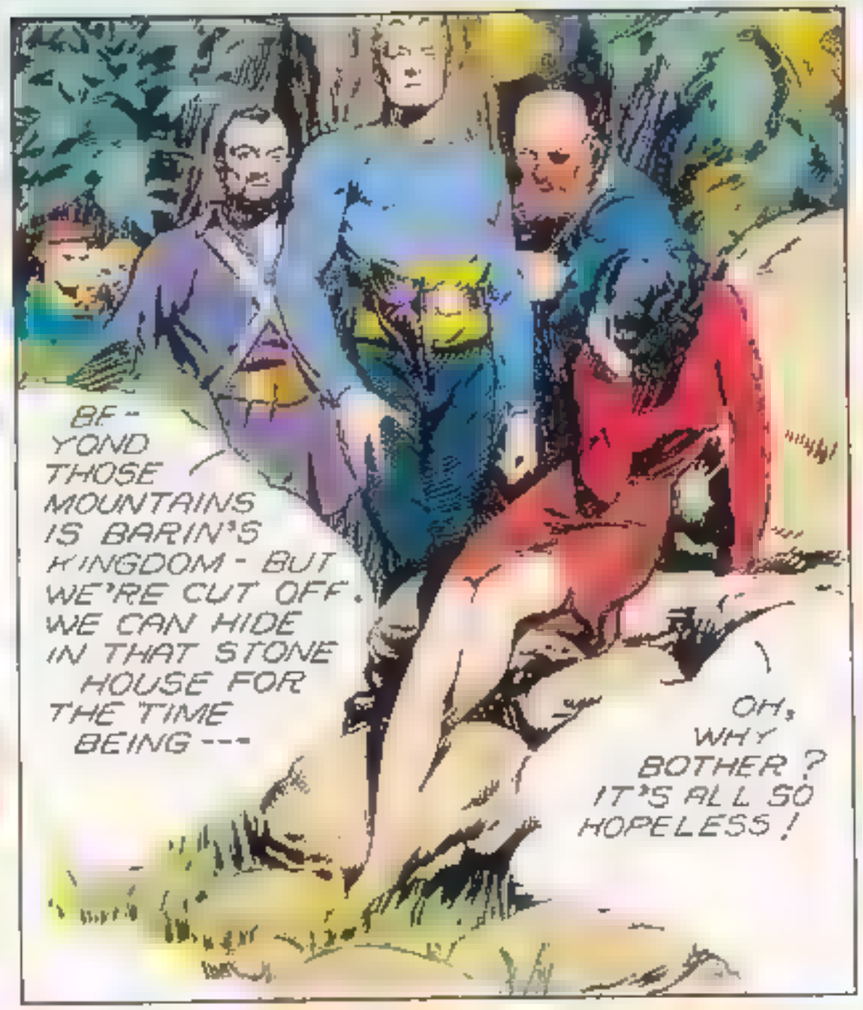
HA! THE BELLS! THE EMPRESS IS DEAD! WOULD IT WERE FLASH GORDON INSTEAD!

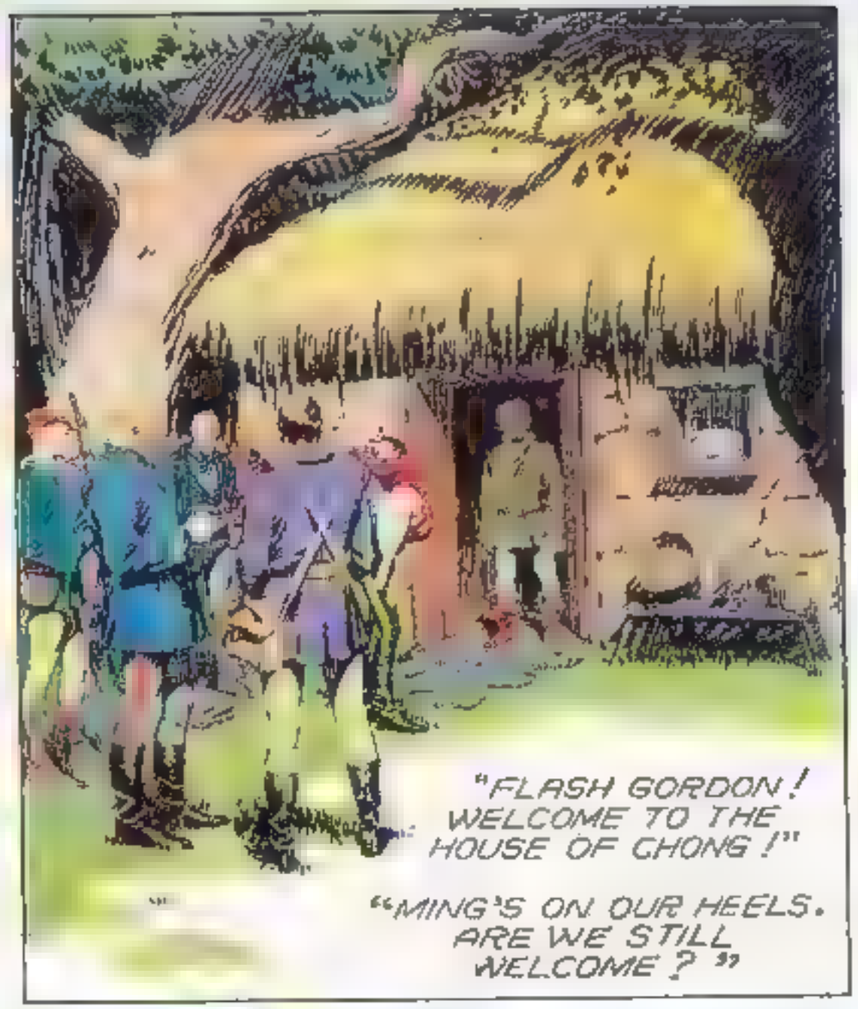
I BEG TO REPORT, SIRE, THAT MY MEN HAVE FOUND THE TRAIL OF THE REBEL BAND.

YOU KNOW MY OFFER, GENERAL. A KINGDOM FOR FLASH GORDON'S HEAD!

NEXT WEEK:- SURROUNDED

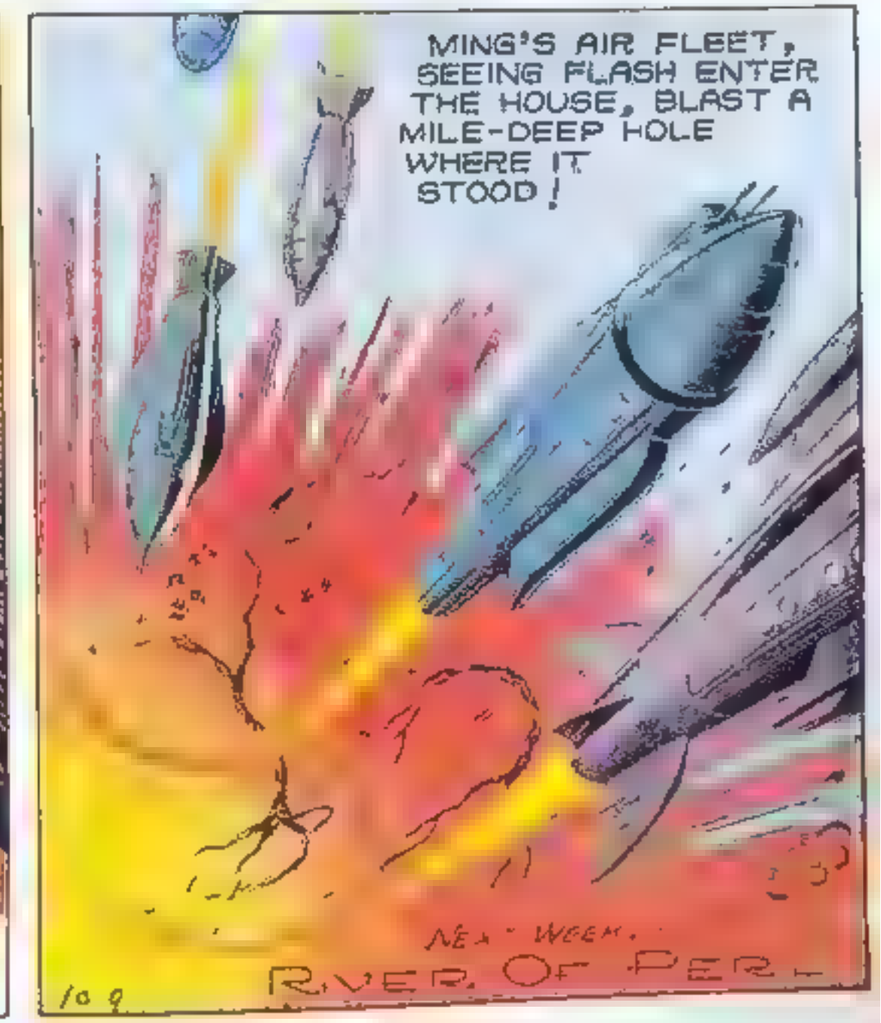

BY AIR AND BY LAND MING'S FORCES CLOSE IN ON FLASH AND HIS TINY BAND, AS THEY HIDE IN A CLUMP OF WOODS AT THE BASE OF THE MONGO MOUNTAINS.

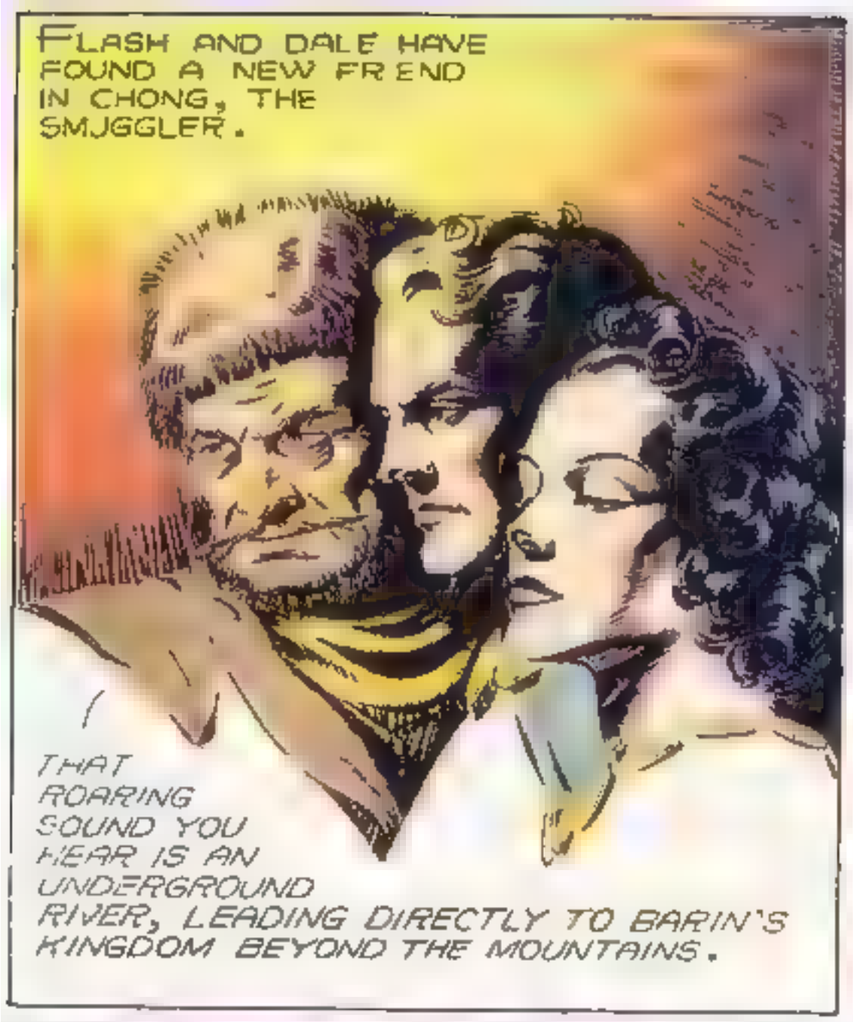

BEYOND THOSE MOUNTAINS IS BARIN'S KINGDOM - BUT WE'RE CUT OFF. WE CAN HIDE IN THAT STONE HOUSE FOR THE TIME BEING ---
OH, WHY BOTHER? IT'S ALL SO HOPELESS!

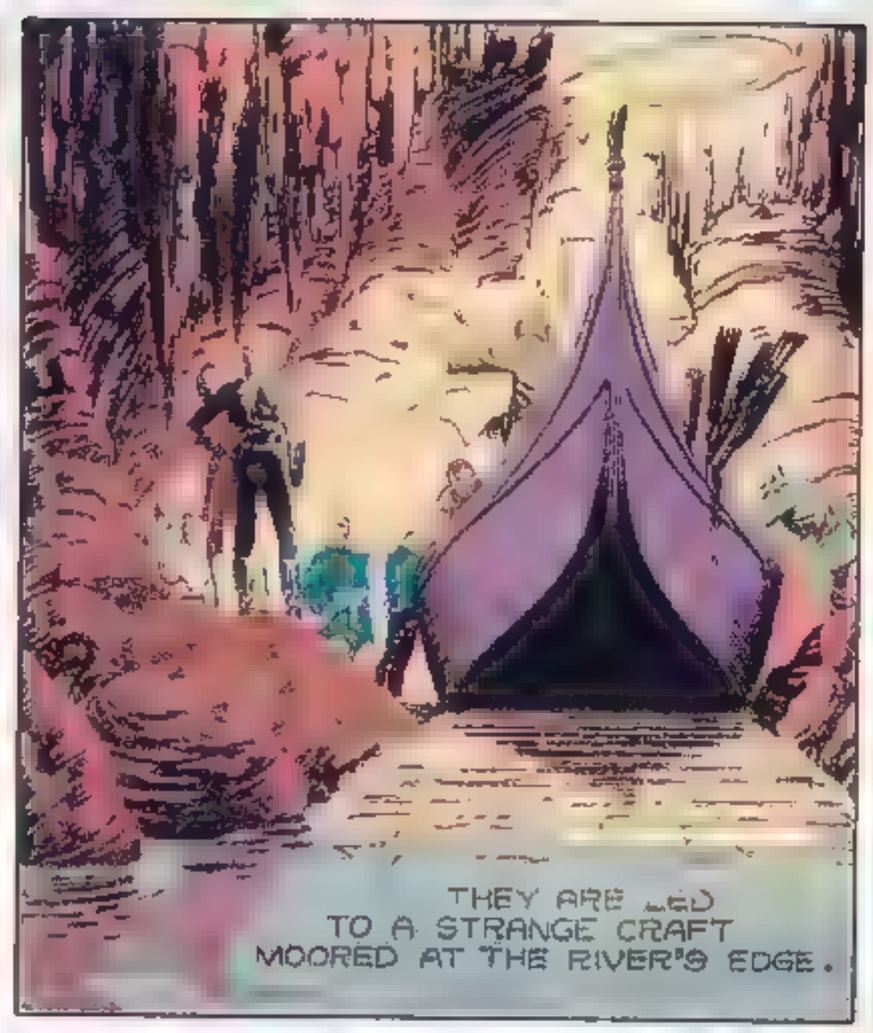

"FLASH GORDON! WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF CHONG!"
"MING'S ON OUR HEELS. ARE WE STILL WELCOME?"

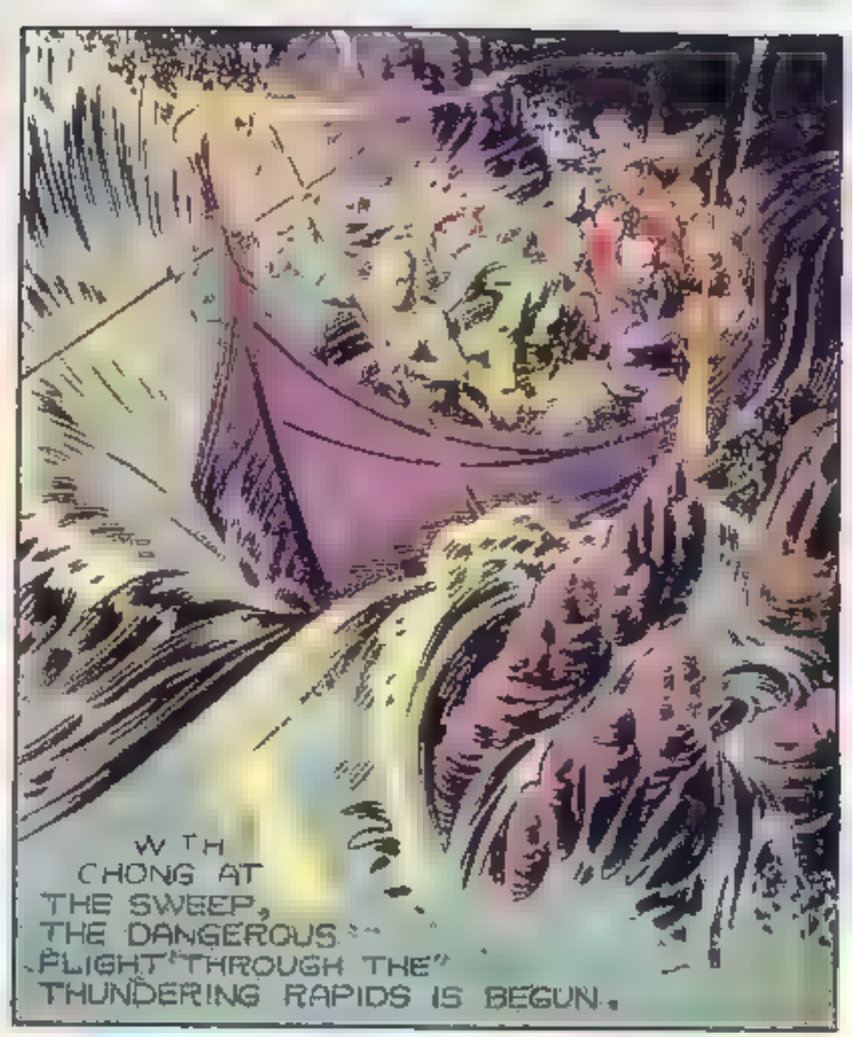
I PRESS A BUTTON AND-- BEHOLD! THE SMUGGLER'S UNDERGROUND HIGHWAY! MING'S ARMY WON'T FIND THIS -- HIS TAX COLLECTORS NEVER DID!

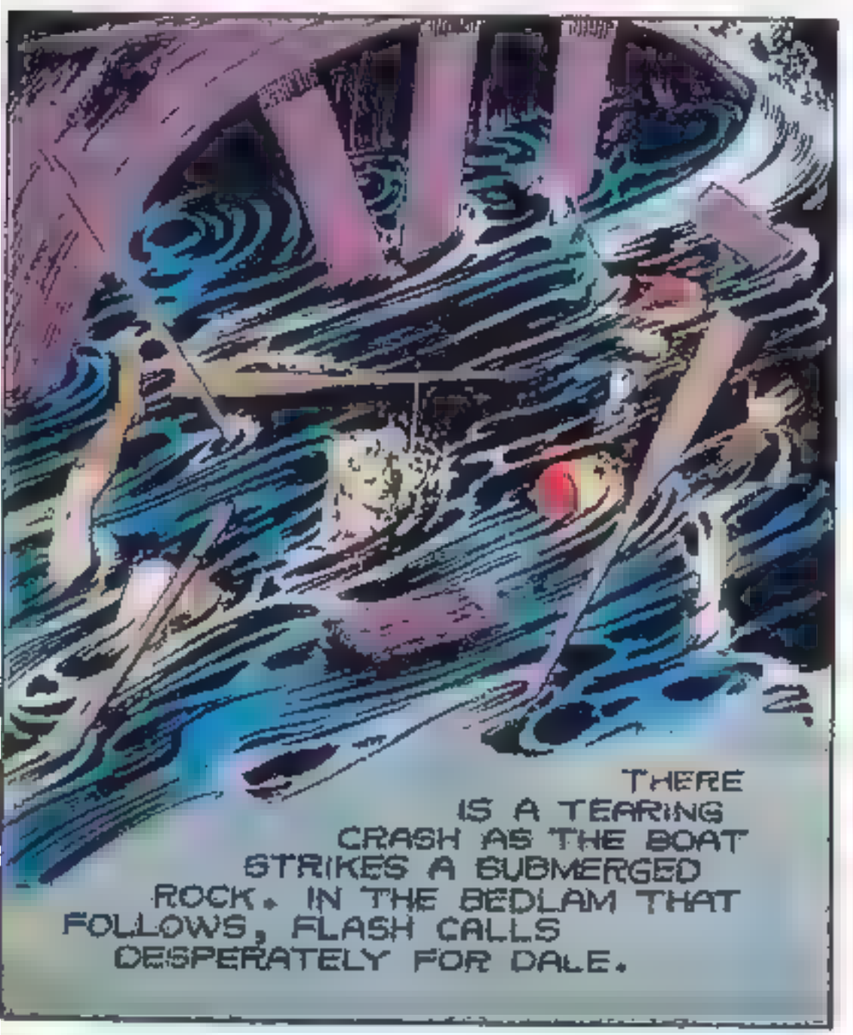
YOU SEE FRIENDS WE HAVE EVERYWHERE?
WHAT GOOD
YES, FLASH--AND I PROMISE I'LL NEVER FAIL YOU AGAIN.


MING'S AIR FLEET, SEEING FLASH ENTER THE HOUSE, BLAST A MILE-DEEP HOLE WHERE IT STOOD!
NEXT WEEK: RIVER OF PER-
10 9


FLASH AND DALE HAVE FOUND A NEW FRIEND IN CHONG, THE SMUGGLER.
THAT ROARING SOUND YOU HEAR IS AN UNDERGROUND RIVER, LEADING DIRECTLY TO BARIN'S KINGDOM BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS.

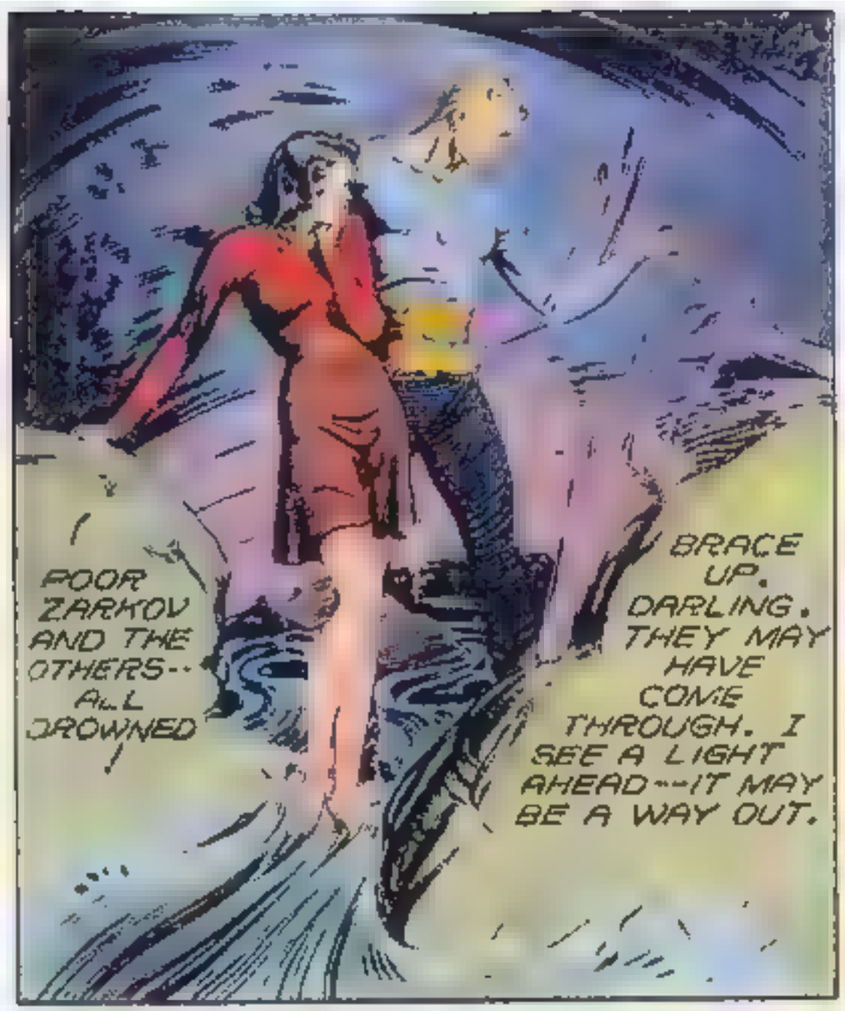

THEY ARE LED TO A STRANGE CRAFT MOORED AT THE RIVER'S EDGE.


WITH CHONG AT THE SWEEP, THE DANGEROUS FLIGHT THROUGH THE THUNDERING RAPIDS IS BEGUN.


THERE IS A TEARING CRASH AS THE BOAT STRIKES A SUBMERGED ROCK. IN THE BEDLAM THAT FOLLOWS, FLASH CALLS DESPERATELY FOR DALE.

"DALE, DARLING--SPEAK TO ME--SPEAK TO ME! AH--THANK HEAVEN! HER EYELIDS ARE FLUTTERING--SHE'S COMING TO!
10-16

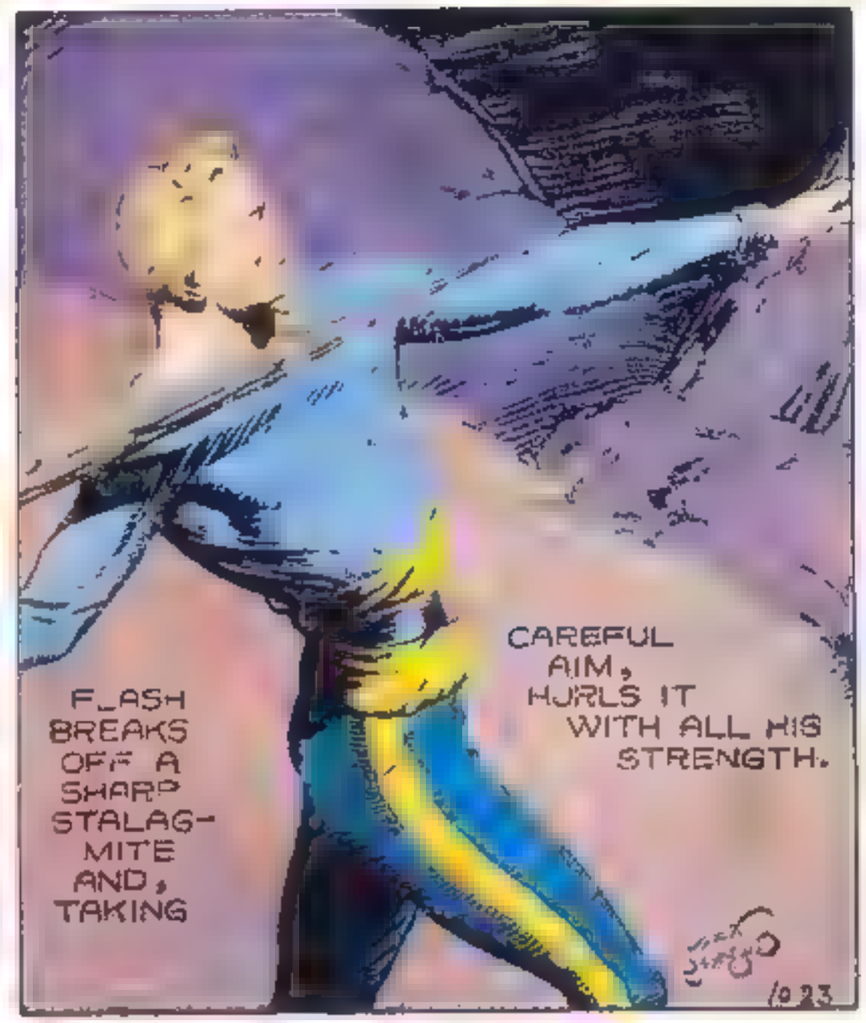
"HELLO! ANYBODY THERE? ZARKOV! BULOK! CHONG!
"OH, FLASH--IT'S NO USE! THEY ARE DEAD! ALL DEAD!"
NEXT WEEK: LOST

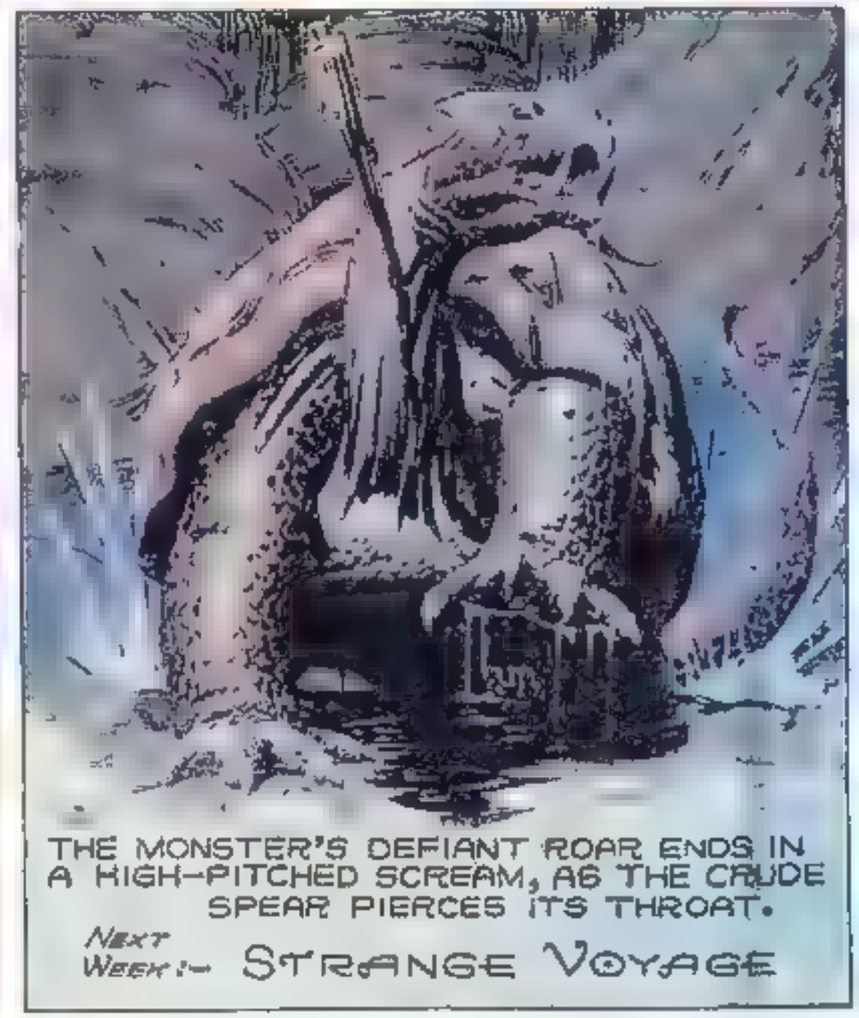

POOR ZARKOV AND THE OTHERS-- ALL DROWNED
BRACE UP, DARLING. THEY MAY HAVE COME THROUGH. I SEE A LIGHT AHEAD--IT MAY BE A WAY OUT.

THEY FOLLOW WILL O THE WISP PHOSPHORESCENT LIGHT DOWN WINDING PASSAGEWAYS.
SORRY, DALE. BUT I'M LOST.
I HOPE WE FIND THE RIVER AGAIN SOON-- I'M SO THIRSTY.

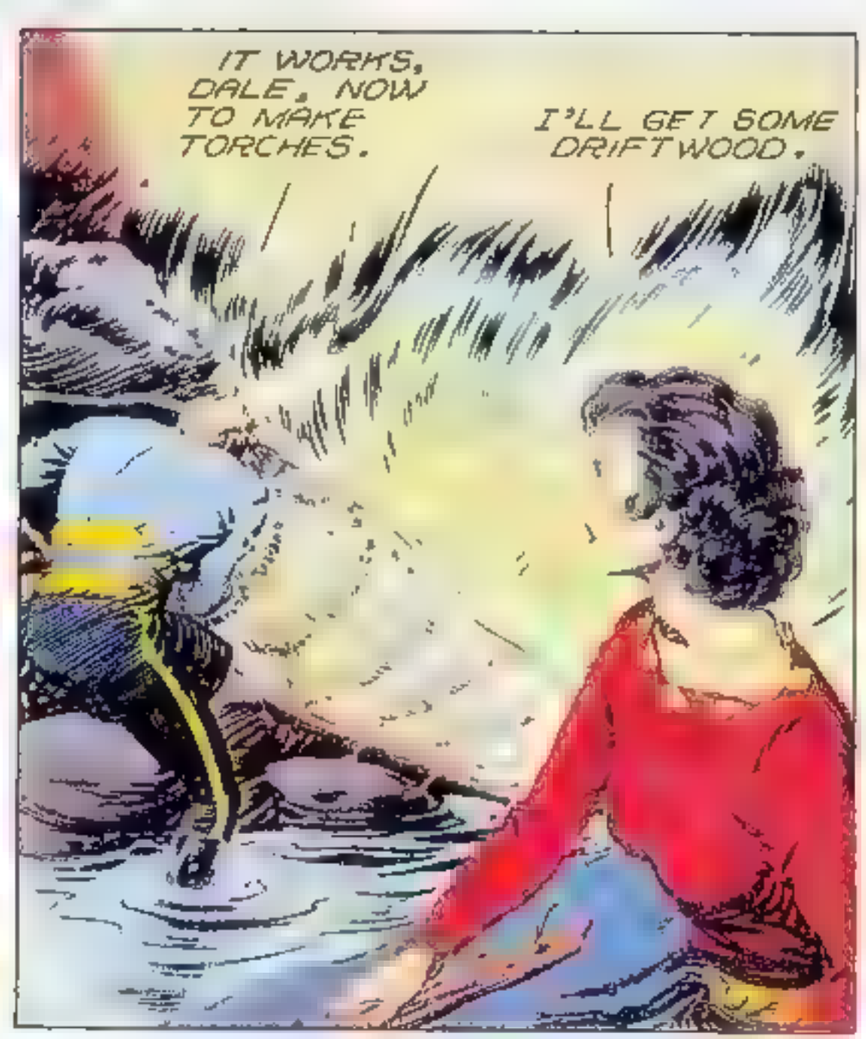
I HEAR RUNNING WATER, DALE! SEEMS TO BE RIGHT AHEAD OF US.

THEY RECOIL IN HORROR AS A GIANT TURTODON RISES FROM THE SLIME AT THE WATER'S EDGE.


FLASH BREAKS OFF A SHARP STALAG-MITE AND, TAKING
CAREFUL AIM, HURLS IT WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH.


THE MONSTER'S DEFIANT ROAR ENDS IN A HIGH-PITCHED SCREAM, AS THE CRUDE SPEAR PIERCES ITS THROAT.
NEXT WEEK:- STRANGE VOYAGE

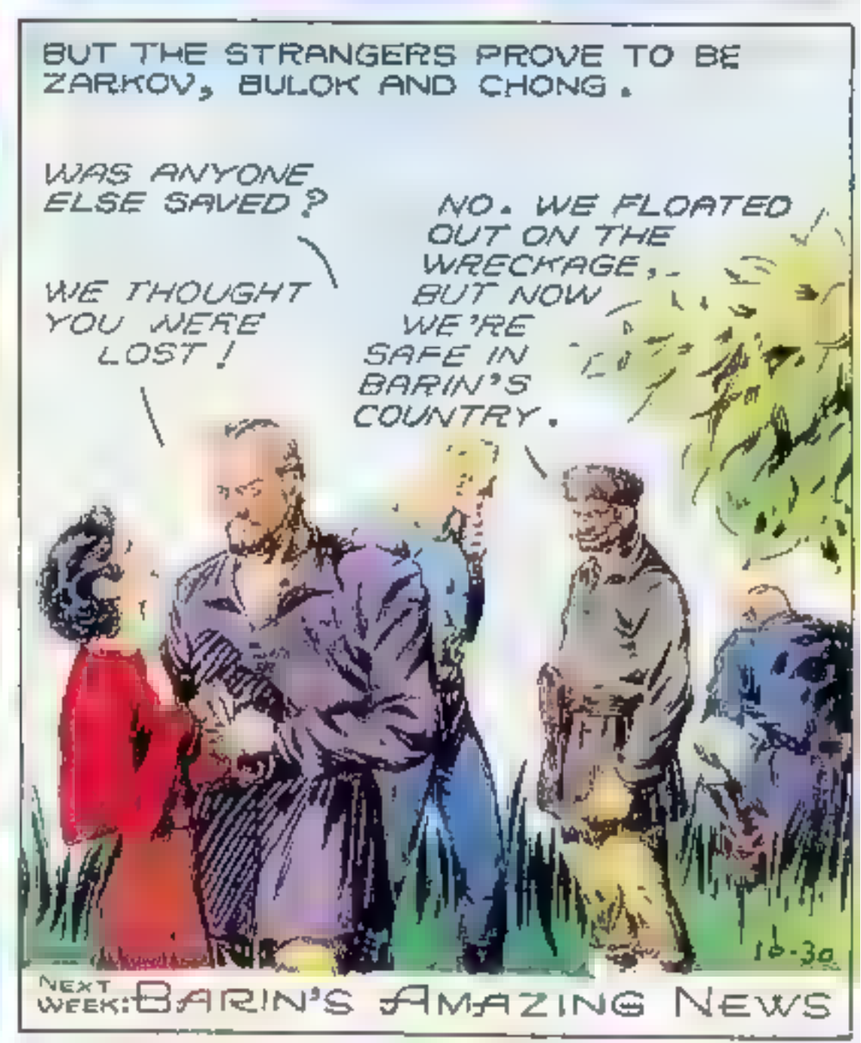
IF THIS TURTODON SHELL WILL FLOAT, WE MAY GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.
BUT THE RIVER IS PITCH BLACK-- HOW CAN WE DODGE THE ROCKS?
ATTACKED BY A GIANT TURTODON, FLASH HAS KILLED THE MONSTER.

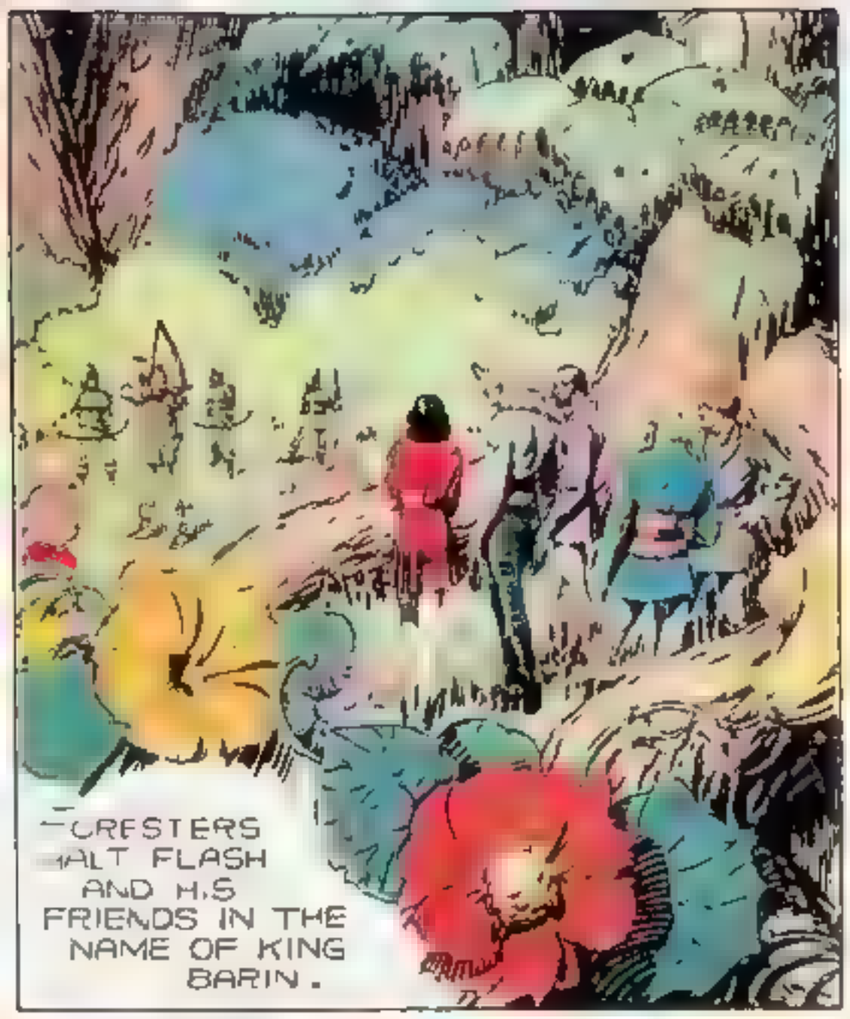

IT WORKS, DALE. NOW TO MAKE TORCHES.
I'LL GET SOME DRIFTWOOD.

LUCKY I FOUND SOME FLINT IN THE ROCKS.
I HOPE THE WOOD WILL CATCH FIRE.

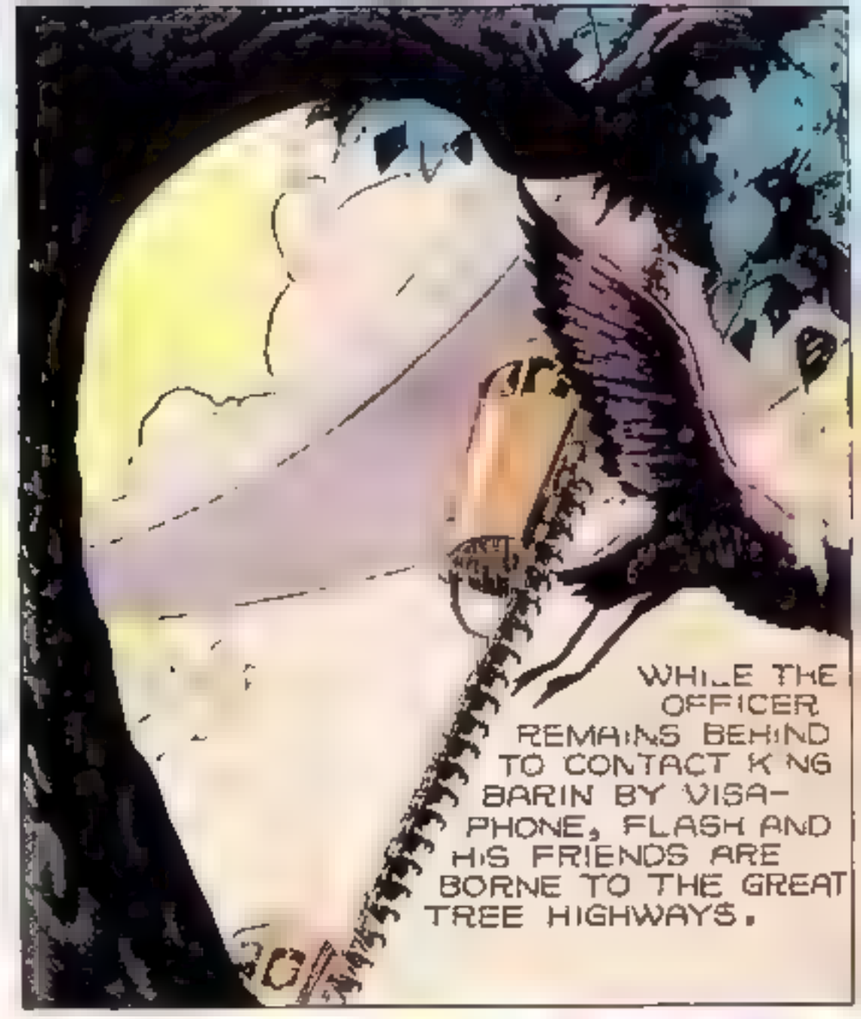
BETTER FASTEN THE TORCH AND BAIL OUT THAT WATER, DEAR.
RIGHT AWAY, FLASH.

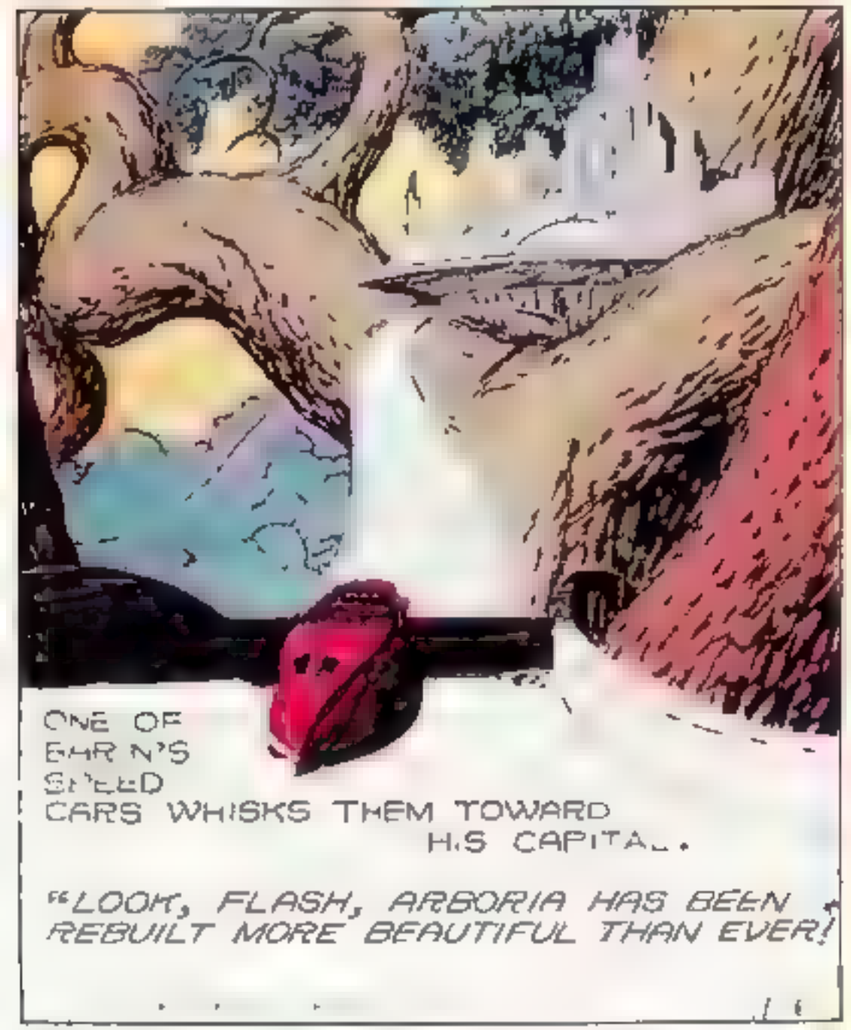
LOOK! WE RE COMING OUT INTO THE OPEN AIR!
YES--AND THOSE PEOPLE MAY BE MING'S GUARDS! PUT OUT THE TORCH AND LIE FLAT--WE MAY SLIP BY UNSEEN.


BUT THE STRANGERS PROVE TO BE ZARKOV, BULOK AND CHONG.
WAS ANYONE ELSE SAVED?
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE LOST!
NO. WE FLOATED OUT ON THE WRECKAGE, BUT NOW WE'RE SAFE IN BARIN'S COUNTRY.
NEXT WEEK: BARIN'S AMAZING NEWS

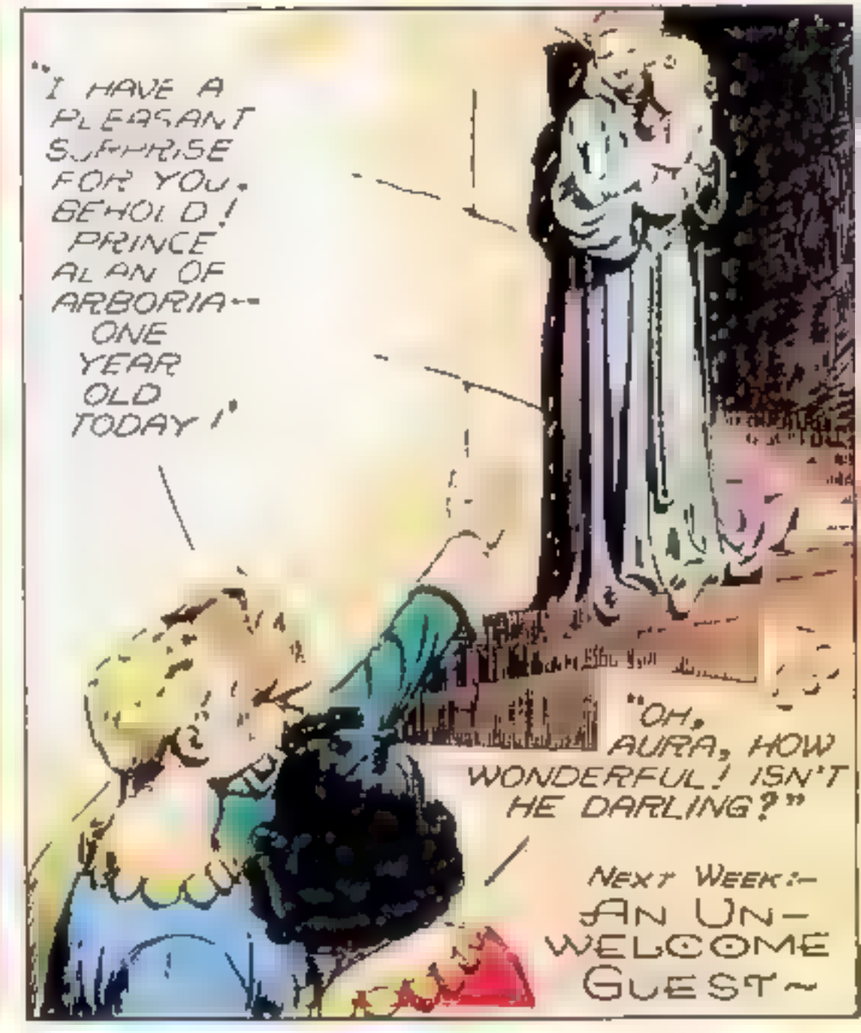

FORESTERS HALT FLASH AND HIS FRIENDS IN THE NAME OF KING BARIN.

"WHY, YOU'RE FLASH GORDON! BUT WE HEARD THAT MING'S AIR FLEET HAD DESTROYED ALL OF YOU--"
"I'M GLAD MING THINKS SO, CAPTAIN. TAKE US TO YOUR KING."


WHILE THE OFFICER REMAINS BEHIND TO CONTACT KING BARIN BY VISA-PHONE, FLASH AND HIS FRIENDS ARE BORNE TO THE GREAT TREE HIGHWAYS.


ONE OF BARIN'S SPEED CARS WHISKS THEM TOWARD HIS CAPITAL.
"LOOK, FLASH, ARBORIA HAS BEEN REBUILT MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER!

"FLASH, MY FRIEND, I HAD GIVEN YOU UP FOR DEAD!"
"I'M GLAD IT IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE, BARIN. IT'S GRAND, BEING WITH YOU AGAIN!"


"I HAVE A PLEASANT SURPRISE FOR YOU. BEHOLD! PRINCE ALAN OF ARBORIA-- ONE YEAR OLD TODAY!"
"OH, AURA, HOW WONDERFUL! ISN'T HE DARLING?"
NEXT WEEK:- AN UN-WELCOME GUEST~

FLASH AND DALE FIND A HAVEN WITH BARIN, AURA AND THEIR YEAR OLD SON.

"WHY, BARIN, YOU'VE LET YOUR HAIR GROW! YOU'RE HANDSOMER THAN EVER!"

"THANKS, DALE. IN ARBORIA, I'VE ENDED MING'S TYRANNICAL RULE OF SHAVED HEADS FOR MEN."

"I NAMED MY SON FOR YOU, FLASH. 'ALAN' IS THE ANCIENT ARBORIAN NAME FOR FLASH."

"THANK YOU, BARIN- AND MAY THE LITTLE FELLOW TURN OUT TO BE AS FINE A MAN AS HIS DAD!"

LATER, A BANQUET IS HELD FOR FLASH AND DALE.

"YOU'RE EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I HAD HEARD."

"OH-- THANK YOU."

"DALE, MAY I PRESENT MY COUSIN, PRINCE RONAL?"

"EMPEROR MING IS CALLING ON THE SPACEO-PHONE, YOUR MAJESTY."

"MING, EH? VERY WELL, PLUG IT IN."

"NOW THAT FLASH GORDON IS DEAD, I CAN THINK OF PLEASANTER MATTERS. I SHALL VISIT YOU AND MY GRANDSON, PRINCE ALAN, NEXT WEEK."

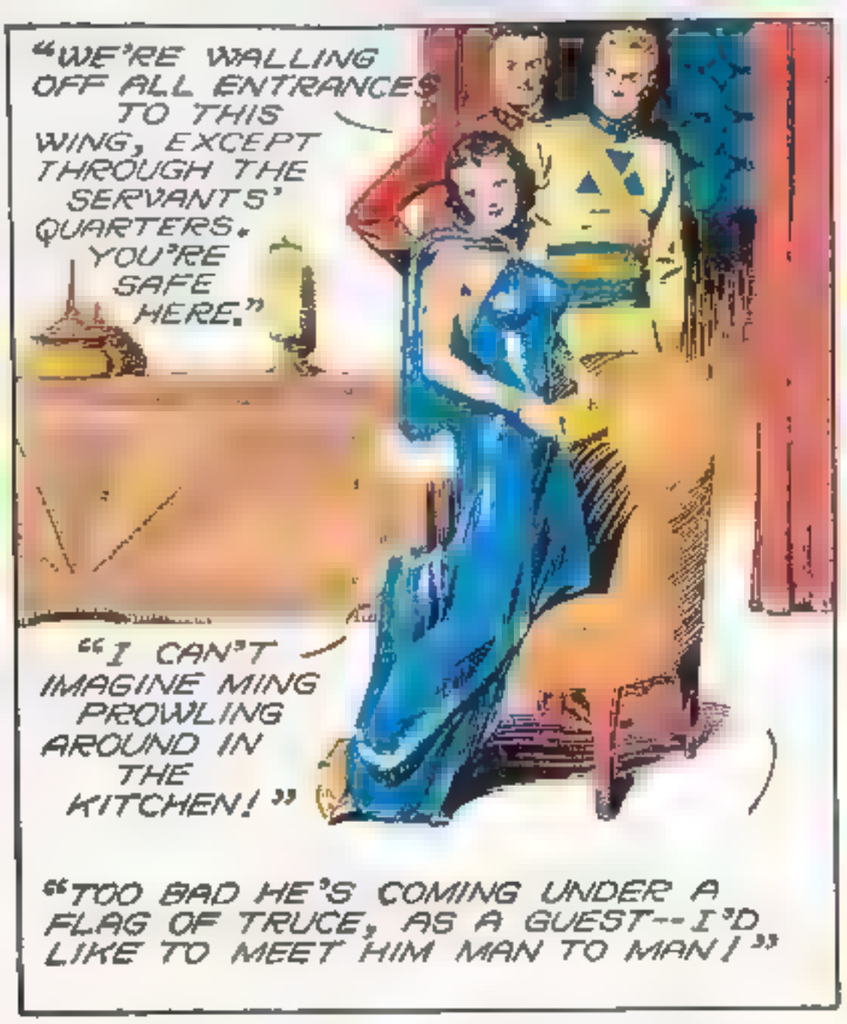
"WELL- IT WOULDN'T BE HOSPITABLE OF ME TO REFUSE YOUR 'REQUEST,' MING."

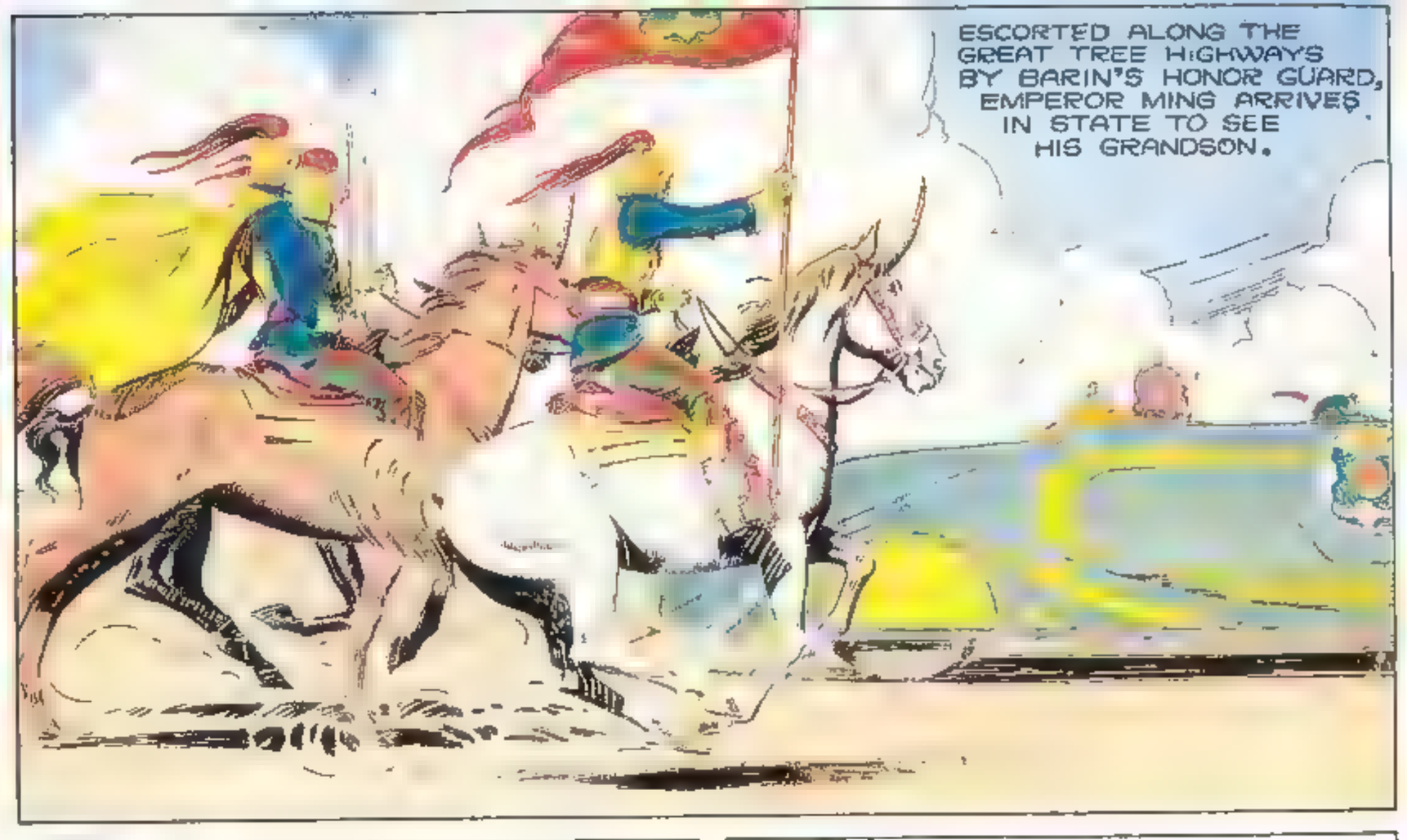
"DALE AND I WILL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY TO AVOID EMBARRASSING YOU."

"NEVER! MY PALACE IS LARGE ENOUGH, SO I CAN ENTERTAIN YOU SAFELY DURING THIS INCONVENIENT VISIT."

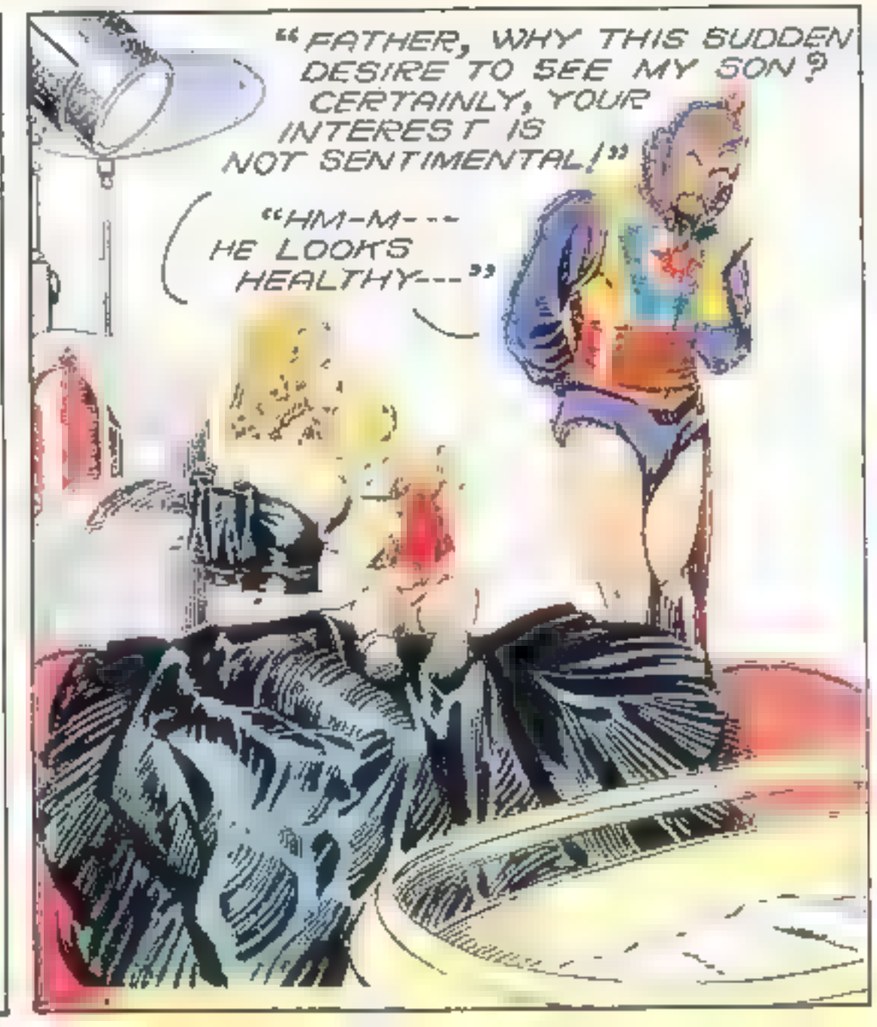
"NO ARBORIAN WILL BETRAY YOUR PRESENCE TO MY FATHER."

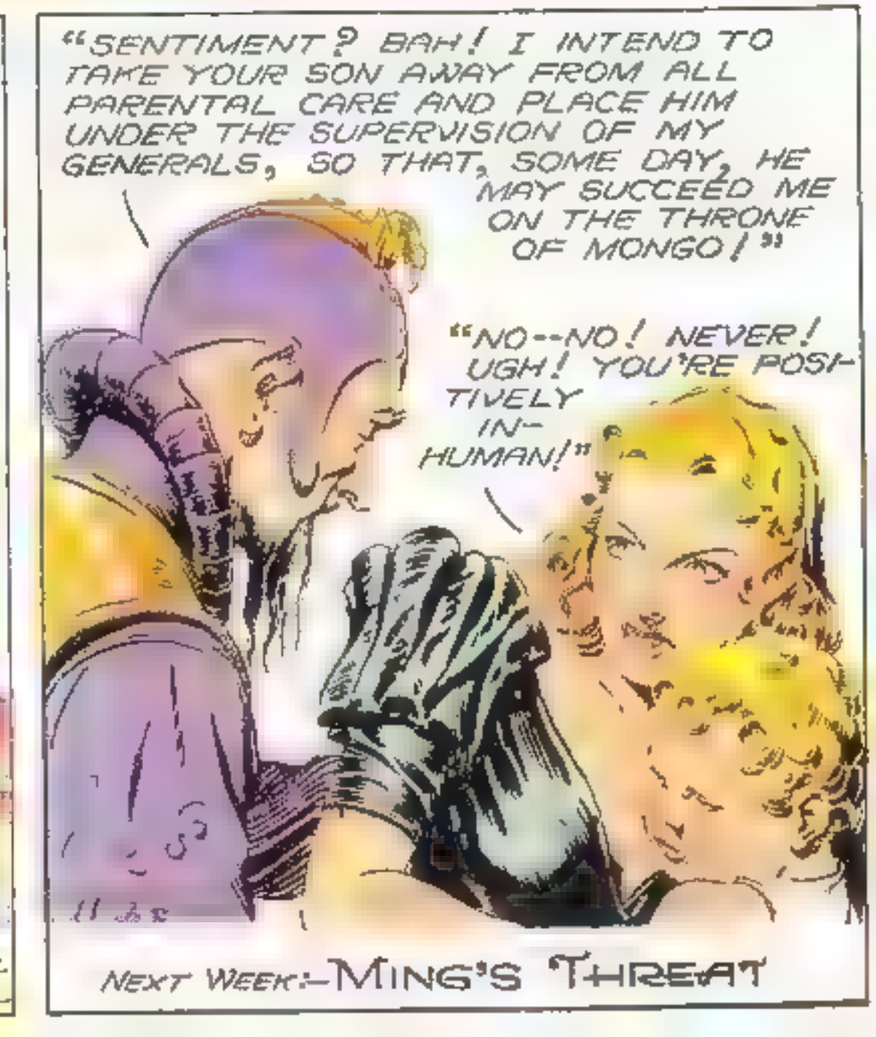
NEXT WEEK:- MING'S PLAN


"WE'RE WALLING OFF ALL ENTRANCES TO THIS WING, EXCEPT THROUGH THE SERVANT'S' QUARTERS. YOU'RE SAFE HERE."
"I CAN'T IMAGINE MING PROWLING AROUND IN THE KITCHEN!"
"TOO BAD HE'S COMING UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE, AS A GUEST--I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM MAN TO MAN!"


ESCORTED ALONG THE GREAT TREE HIGHWAYS BY BARIN'S HONOR GUARD, EMPEROR MING ARRIVES IN STATE TO SEE HIS GRANDSON.

"I SEE, BARIN, THAT YOU'VE DEFIED MY ORDERS THAT NO MAN IN MONGO MAY LET HIS HAIR GROW!"
"JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE BALD, IS NO GOOD REASON WHY WE ARBORIANS SHOULD GO HAIRLESS!"
"PLEASE, FATHER, I WANTED MY HUSBAND TO LOOK HANDSOME."


"FATHER, WHY THIS SUDDEN DESIRE TO SEE MY SON? CERTAINLY, YOUR INTEREST IS NOT SENTIMENTAL!"
"HM-M--- HE LOOKS HEALTHY---"


"SENTIMENT? BAH! I INTEND TO TAKE YOUR SON AWAY FROM ALL PARENTAL CARE AND PLACE HIM UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MY GENERALS, SO THAT, SOME DAY, HE MAY SUCCEED ME ON THE THRONE OF MONGO!"
"NO--NO! NEVER! UGH! YOU'RE POSITIVELY IN-HUMAN!"
NEXT WEEK:—MING'S THREAT

"YOU WOULD TAKE MY BABY FROM ME--HAVE YOUR SCIENTISTS AND MILITARISTS MOLD HIM INTO A COLD, HEARTLESS MACHINE! NEVER, FATHER--I'D DIE FIRST!"

"BUT THE CHILD MUST BE TRAINED TO RULE MONGO! PARENTAL CARE WOULD MAKE HIM WEAK!"

"WE INTEND TO TRAIN OUR OWN SON--IN THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE AS EXEMPLIFIED BY FLASH GORDON!"

"HIS BELIEFS HAVE BROUGHT HIM DEATH, BARIN--HEED WELL HIS FATE!"

ONE OF MING'S COURTIERS BLUNDERS INTO FLASH'S HIDDEN QUARTERS.

"HA! BARIN SHOWS FINE TASTE IN SERVANTS! COME, NOW--A KISS!"

"OH, YOU MUST NOT! HELP!"

FLASH'S SLEDGE-HAMMER FIST SENDS THE AMOROUS OFFICER SPINNING TO THE FLOOR.

"KING BARIN, I DEMAND SATISFACTION! SOMEONE STRUCK ME--IN THE SERVANTS' QUARTERS!"

"SERVES YOU RIGHT--YOU HAD NO BUSINESS THERE!"

"I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! I'LL NOT STAY WHERE I AND MY MEN ARE INSULTED! HAVE YOUR MEN ESCORT ME TO THE BORDER AT ONCE!"

"WITH PLEASURE, SIRE!"

NEXT WEEK:— THE SHADOW OF DANGER

1127

BARIN'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW HIS SON, HEIR TO THE THRONE OF MONGO, TO BE REARED UNDER MING'S SUPERVISION CAUSES THE EMPEROR TO LEAVE BARIN'S CASTLE IN ANGER. PRINCE RONAL ESCORTS MING TO THE END OF THE TREE HIGHWAY, AND ORDERS CAPTAIN SOLAS TO CONDUCT HIM TO THE BORDER.

RONAL RETURNS TO THE CASTLE.

"I THINK THIS MEANS WAR!"

"NO, RONAL-- I THINK BARIN WILL AGREE, THAT EVEN THOUGH MING HAS NO LOVE FOR AURA'S CHILD, HE WOULDN'T RISK KILLING HIS HEIR. BUT WE SHOULD WARN ALL OUTPOSTS AGAINST MING, OR SOME OF HIS MEN, RETURNING."

"AURA, YOUR BABY IS DARLING! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO BEAUTIFUL!"

"NEITHER HAVE I - AND I DON'T MEAN THE BABY!"

WHILE BARIN'S AIR SLED IS MADE READY FOR THEIR TOUR OF THE OUTPOSTS, FLASH TAKES HIS LEAVE OF DALE.

"OH, FLASH--I HATE TO LET YOU GO OUT OF MY SIGHT--"

AS FLASH TAKES OFF, AURA EYES RONAL CLOSELY.

"RONAL, YOU'RE FALLING IN LOVE WITH DALE!"

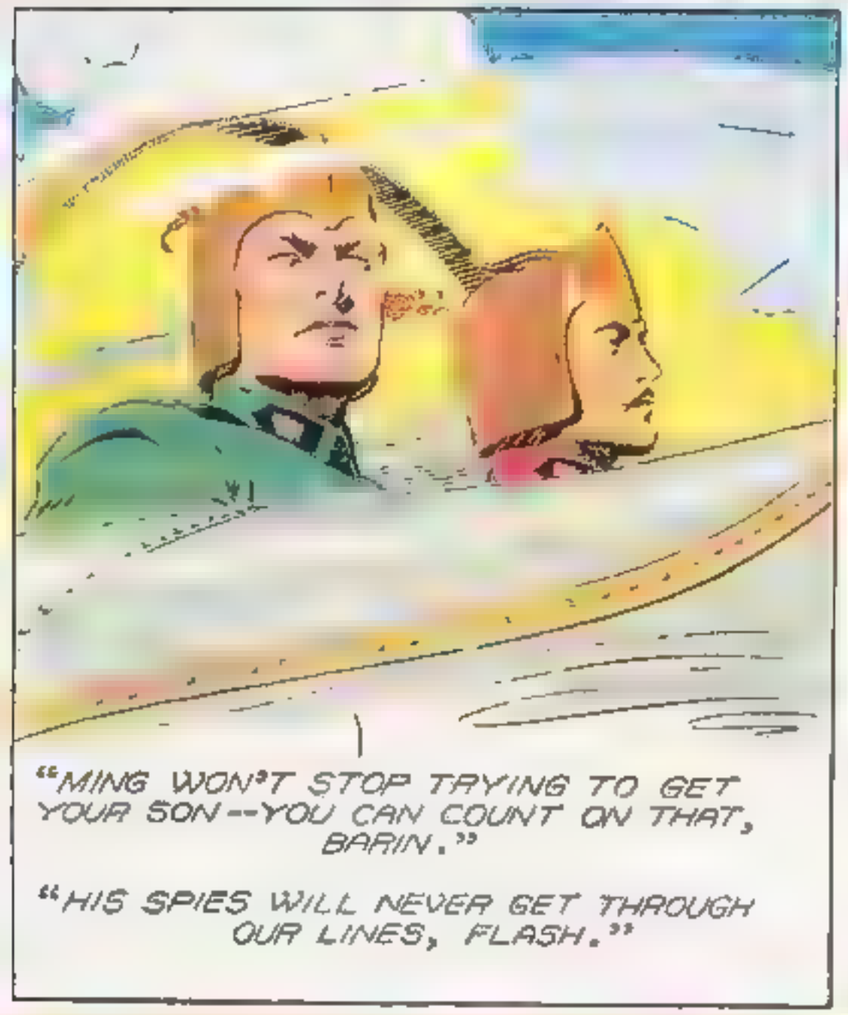
"WHY--NO, NO--OF COURSE NOT---"

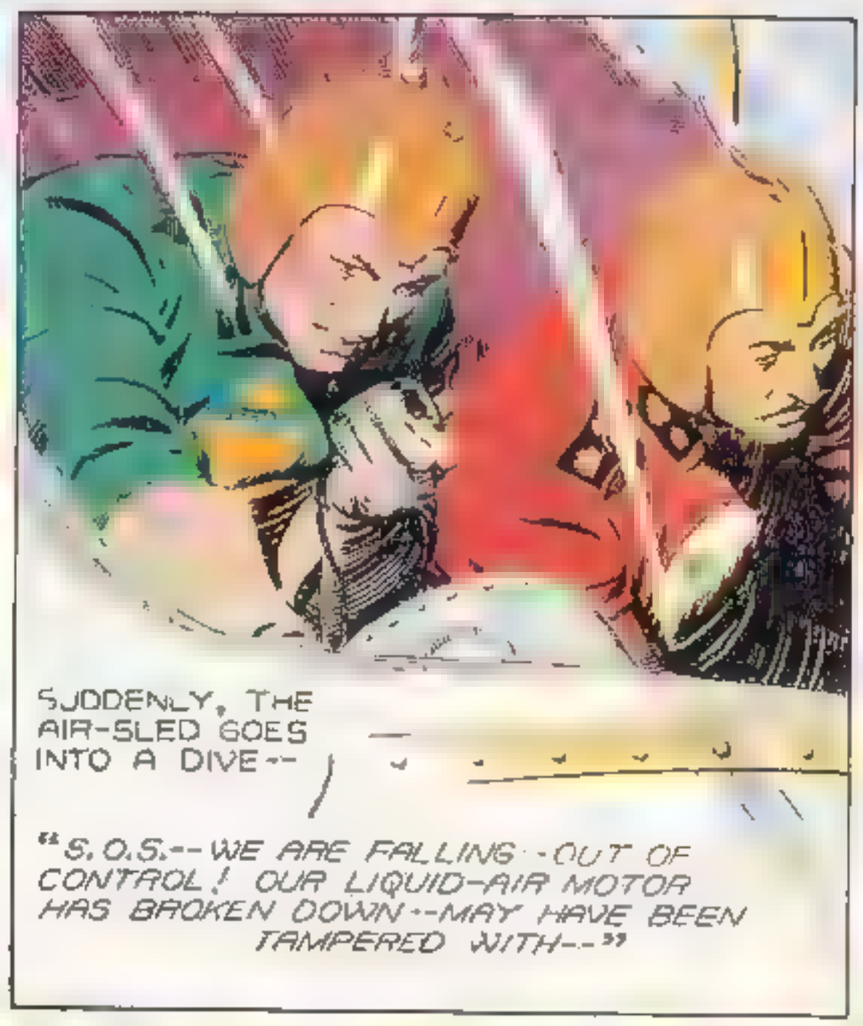
"I KNOW CAPTAIN SOLAS WON'T LET ANY SPIES OR KIDNAPERS GET PAST HIM."

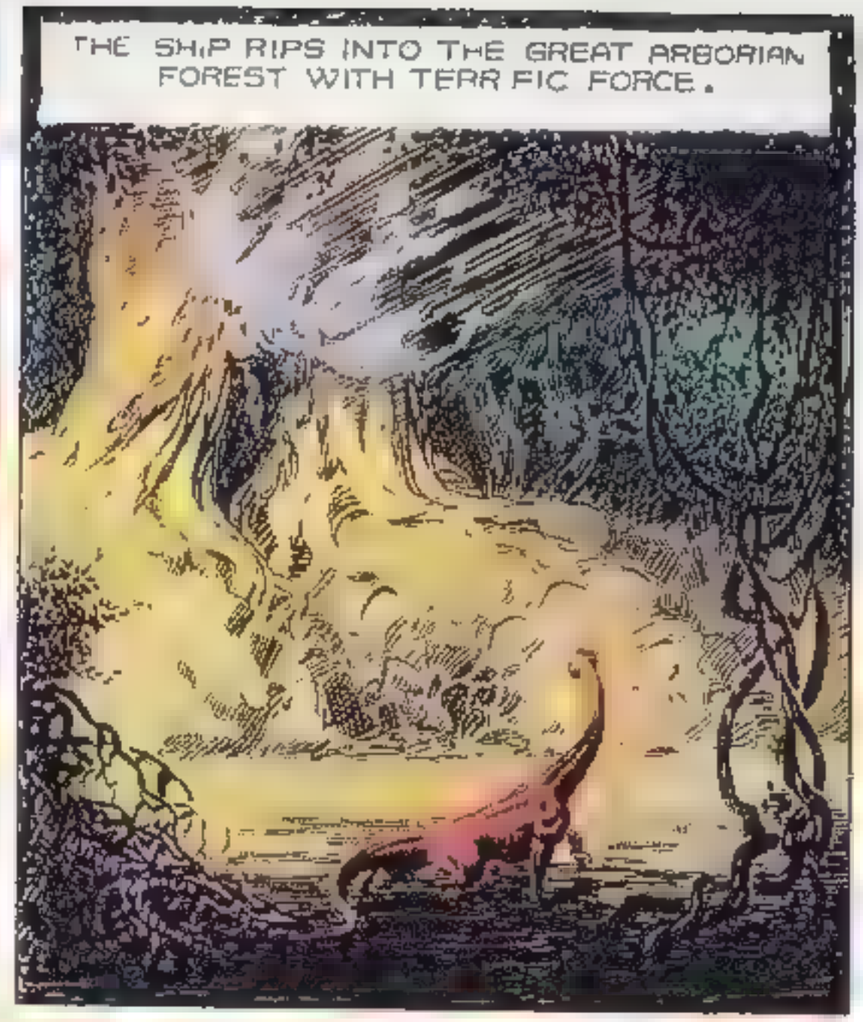
"MING MAY TRY TO STEAL MY SON."

NEXT WEEK: CRACK-UP

12-4

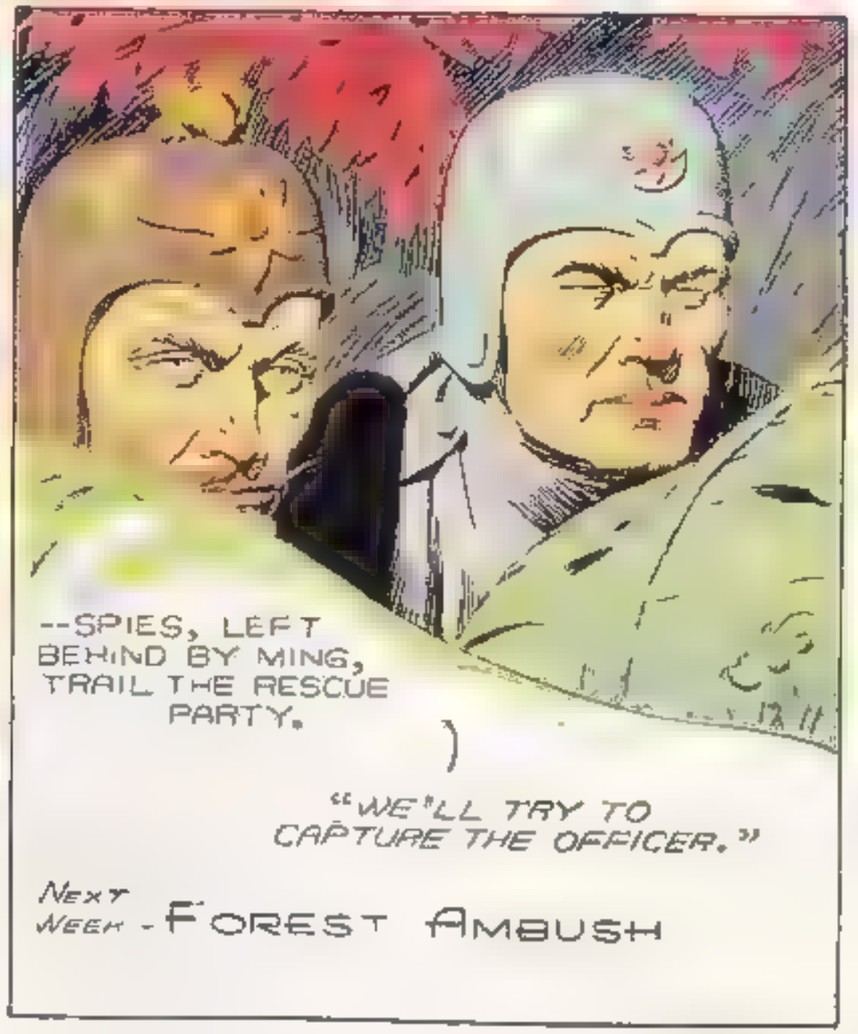

"MING WON'T STOP TRYING TO GET YOUR SON--YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT, BARIN."
"HIS SPIES WILL NEVER GET THROUGH OUR LINES, FLASH."


SUDDENLY, THE AIR-SLED GOES INTO A DIVE--
"S.O.S.--WE ARE FALLING--OUT OF CONTROL! OUR LIQUID-AIR MOTOR HAS BROKEN DOWN--MAY HAVE BEEN TAMPERED WITH--"


THE SHIP RIPS INTO THE GREAT ARBORIAN FOREST WITH TERRIFIC FORCE.

IN BARIN'S PALACE--
"HIS MAJESTY AND FLASH GORDON CRASHED IN THE FOREST NORTHWEST OF HERE!"
"OH, RONAL--TAKE ME TO FLASH!"
"GO TO THE RESCUE--AT ONCE, CAPTAIN SOLAS!"

AS CAPTAIN SOLAS AND HIS MEN SLASH THEIR WAY THROUGH THE DENSE JUNGLE UNDERGROWTH--

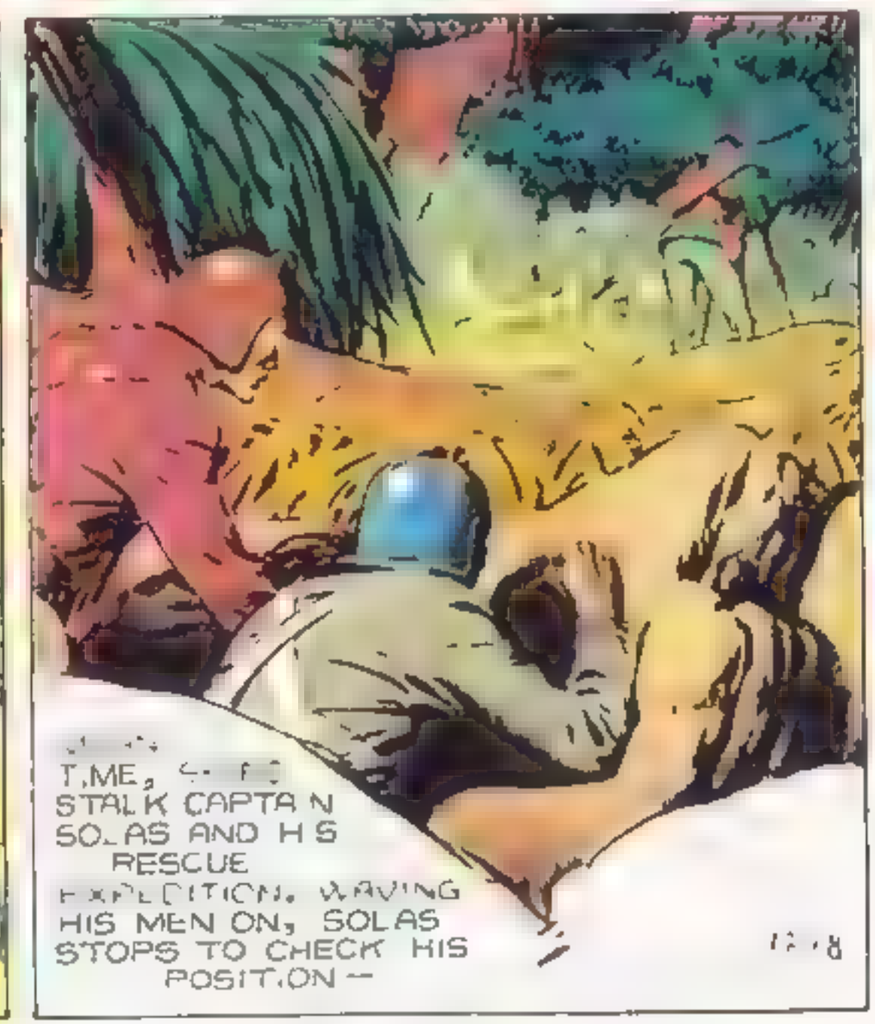

--SPIES, LEFT BEHIND BY MING, TRAIL THE RESCUE PARTY.
"WE'LL TRY TO CAPTURE THE OFFICER."
NEXT WEEK - FOREST AMBUSH

WITH HEAVY HEARTS, DALE, AURA AND RONAL SET OUT TO SEARCH FOR FLASH AND BARIN, WHO HAVE CRASHED IN THE EARLY ARBORIAN JUNGLE.

FLASH, BRUISED AND DAZED, CLIMBS FROM THE WRECKED A.R SLED WITH BARIN DRAPED LIMPLY OVER HIS SHOULDER.

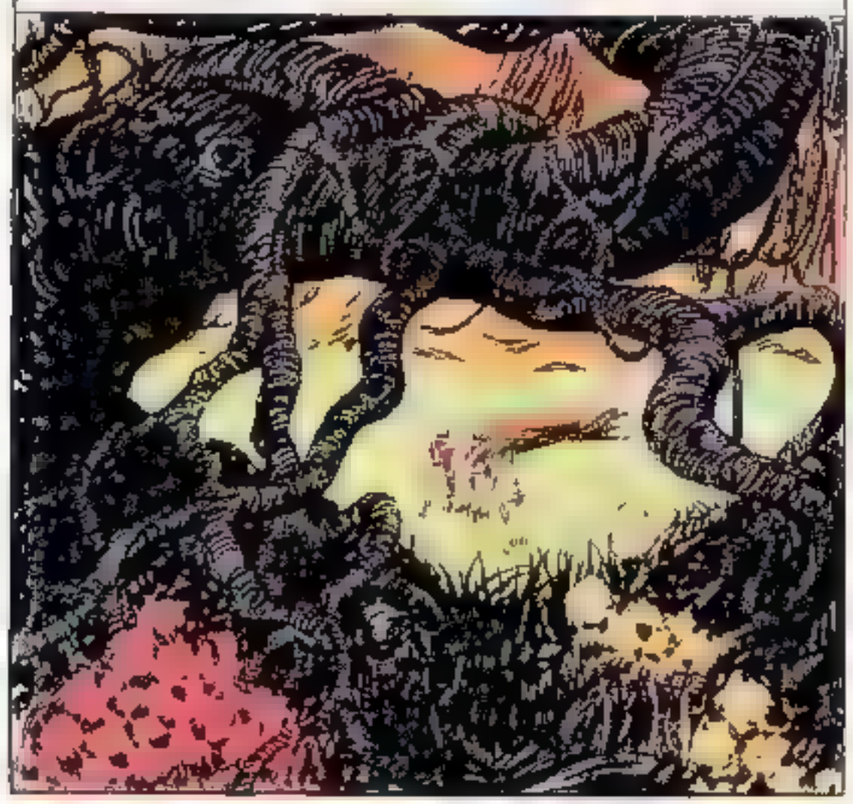
NO SOONER IS FLASH AT A SAFE DISTANCE FROM THE WRECKAGE, THAN IT EXPLODES WITH A ROAR!

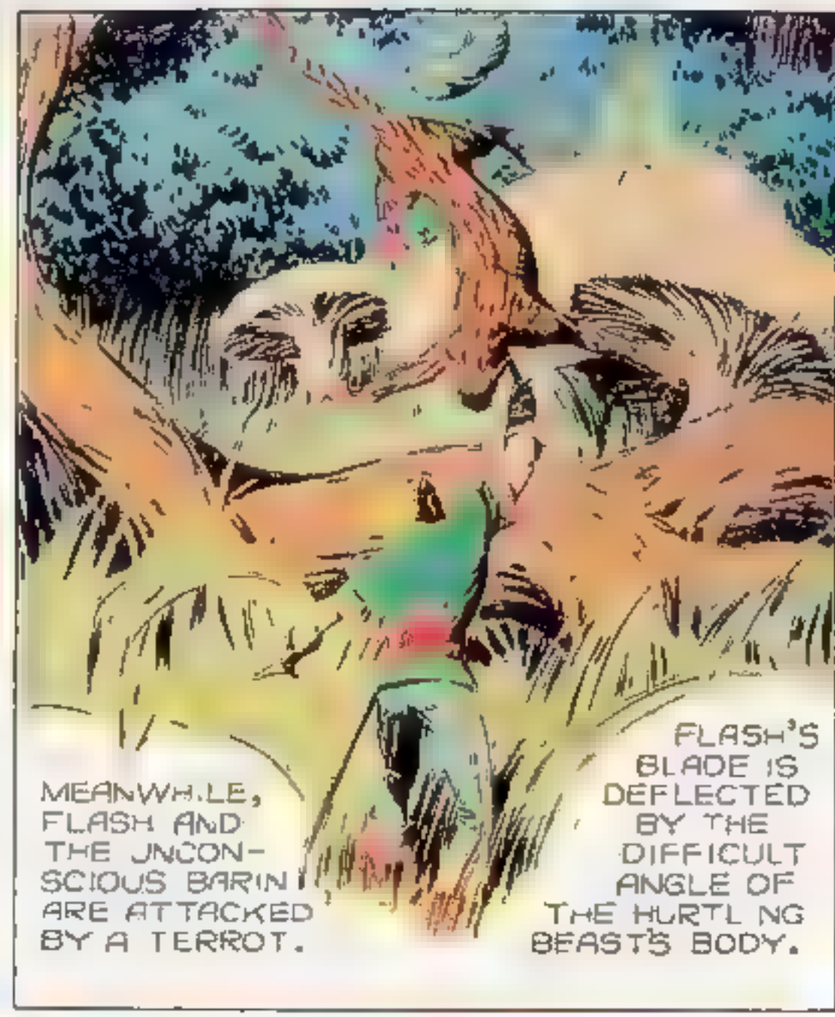
FLASH HEARS
DREAD TREE TIGER!

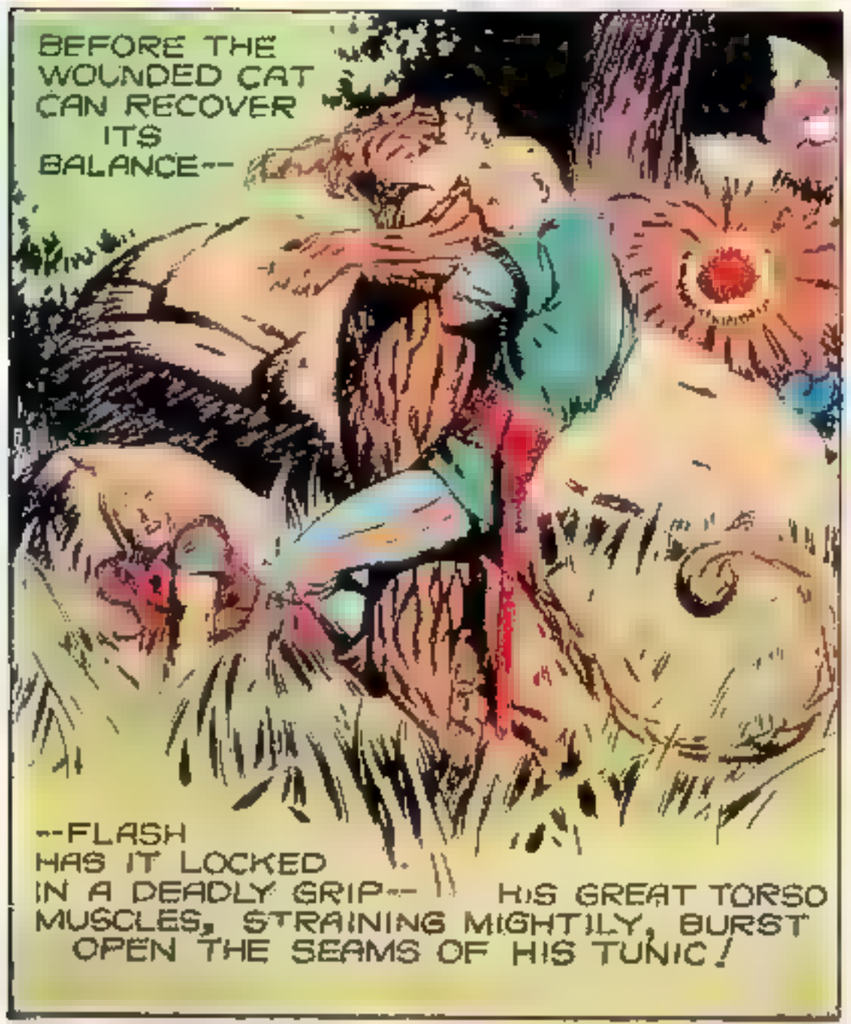

TIME, STALK CAPTAIN SOLAS AND HIS RESCUE EXPEDITION. WAVING HIS MEN ON, SOLAS STOPS TO CHECK HIS POSITION —

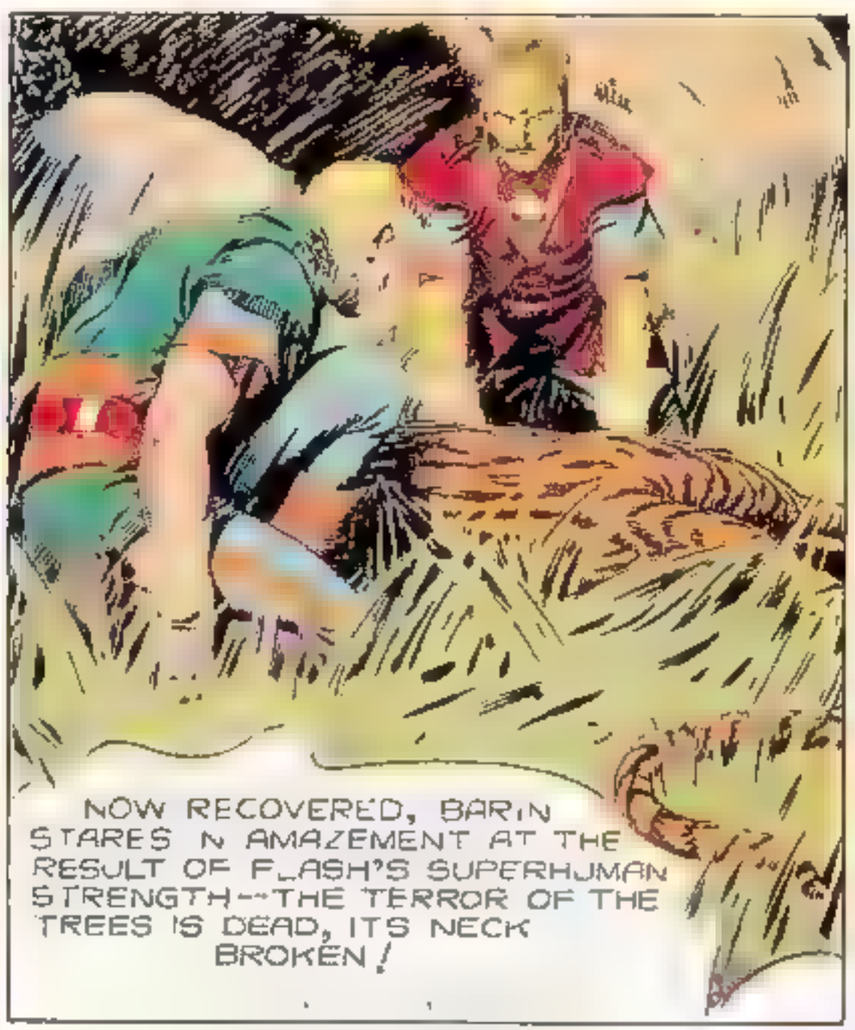
PREY TO THE PLOTTERS' CLUBBED RAY-PISTOLS!
"HA! MING CAN USE THIS CAPTIVE OFFICER TO GET INTO BARIN'S KINGDOM!"
NEXT WEEK:
THE TERROR OF THE TREES

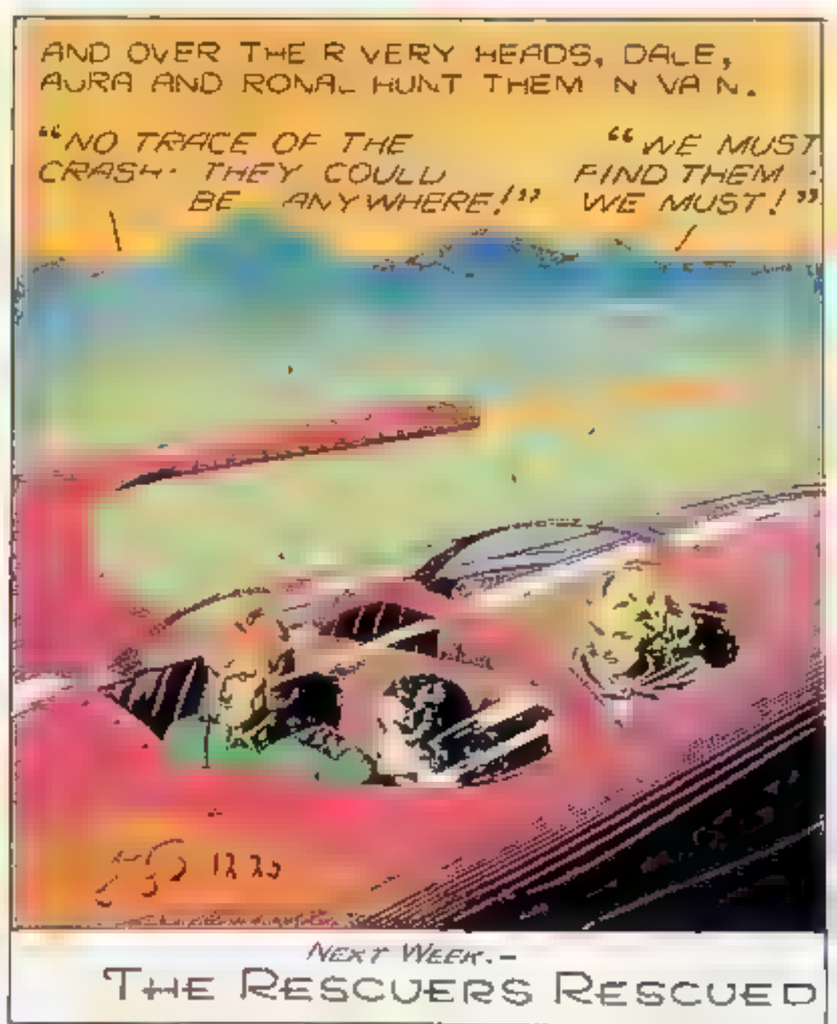
MING'S SPIES HAVE CAPTURED CAPTAIN SOLAS, NOT KNOWING THAT HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO RESCUE FLASH AND BARIN FROM A WRECKED AIR SLED. A ROCKET PLANE WAITS IN A GREAT CLEARING TO CARRY THEM TO MING'S CAPITAL.



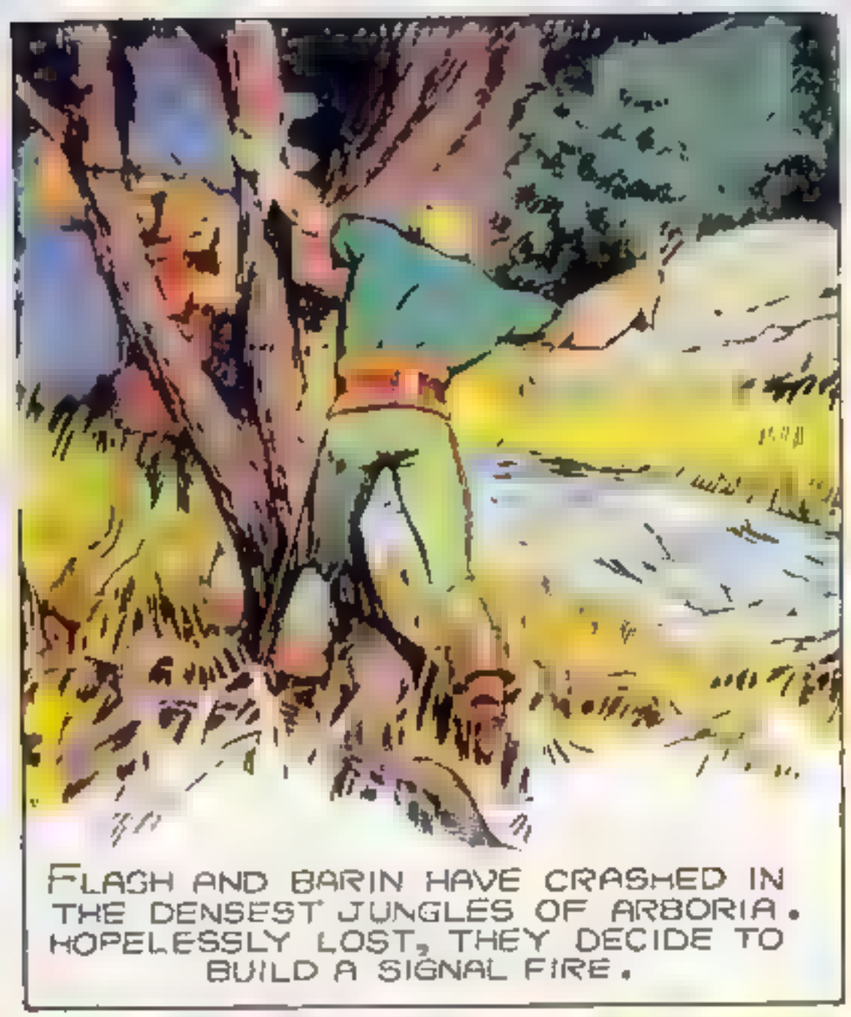


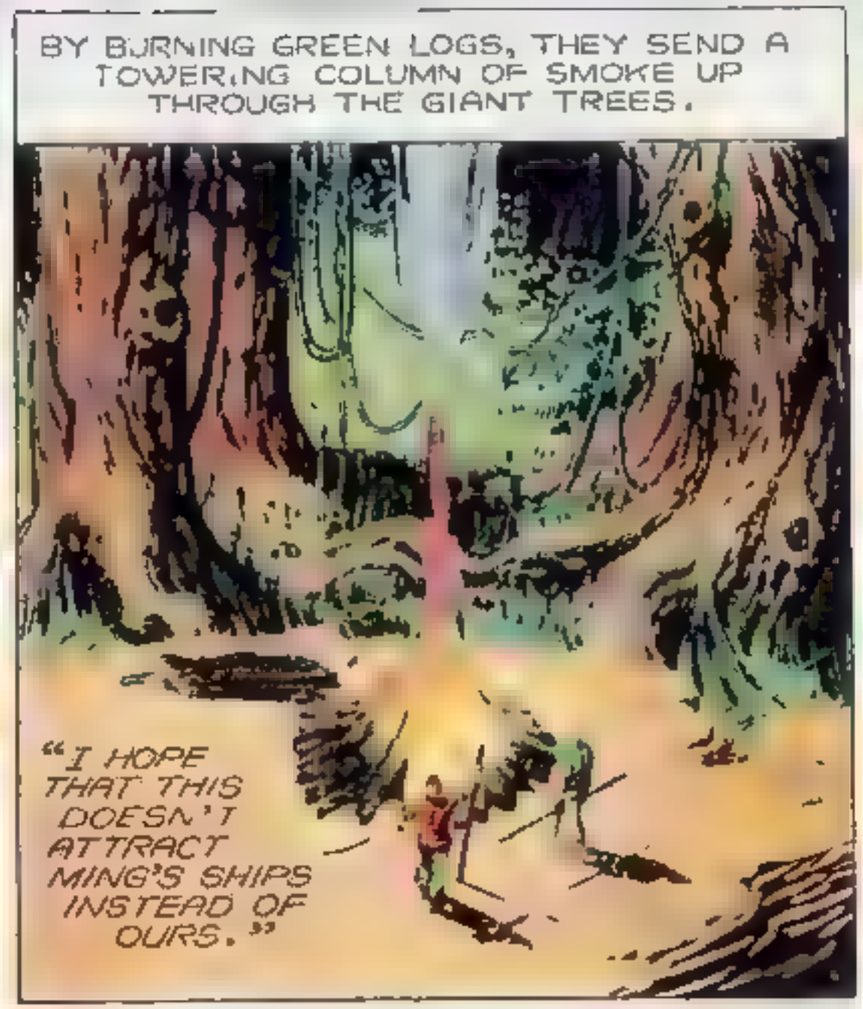




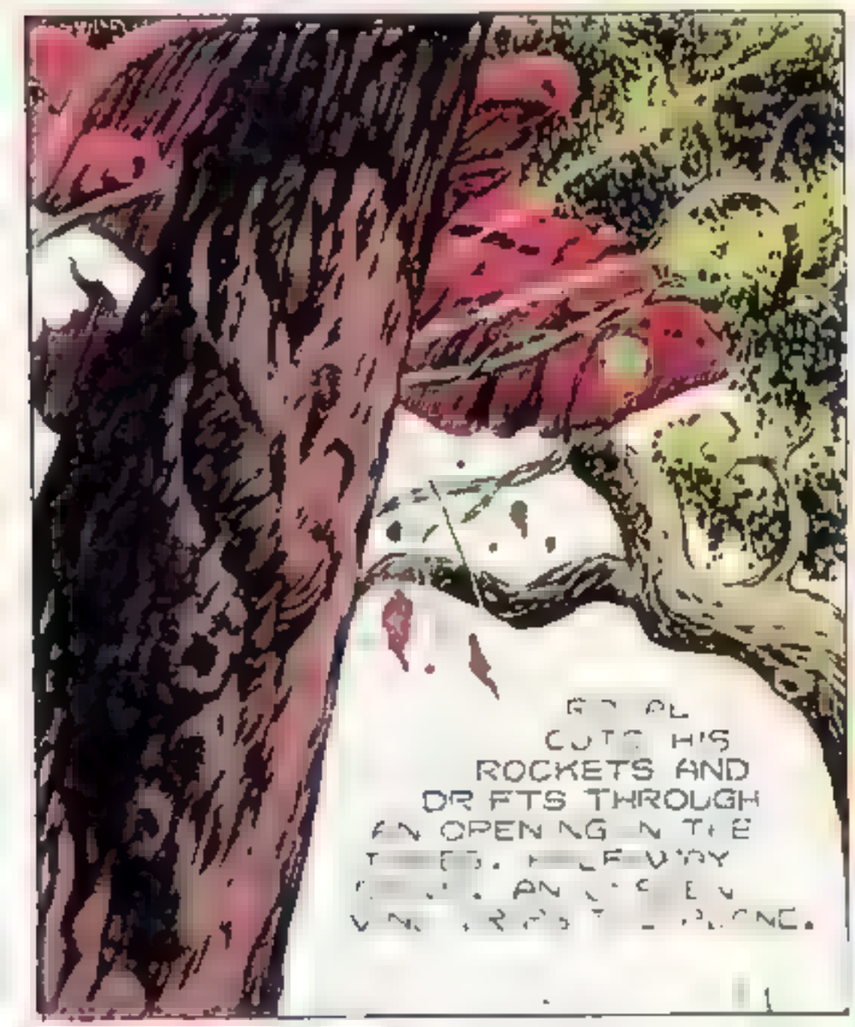


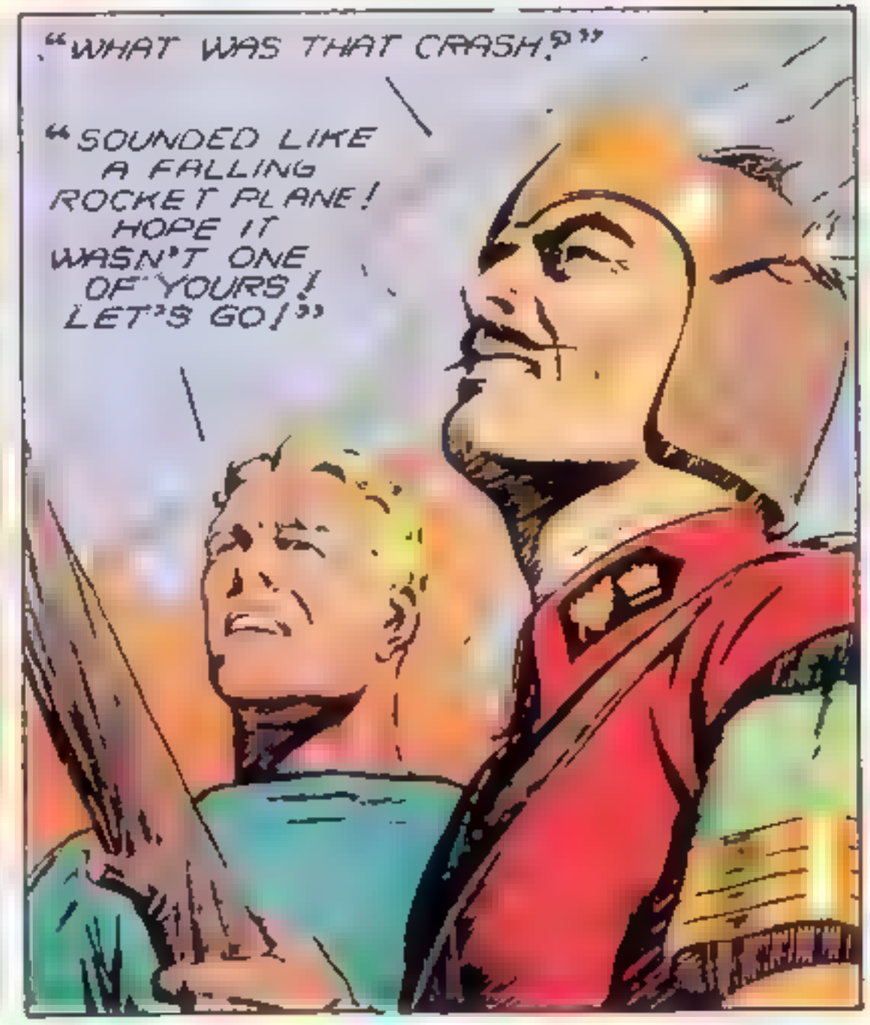
NEXT WEEK.-
THE RESCUERS RESCUED


FLASH AND BARIN HAVE CRASHED IN THE DENSEST JUNGLES OF ARBORIA. HOPELESSLY LOST, THEY DECIDE TO BUILD A SIGNAL FIRE.

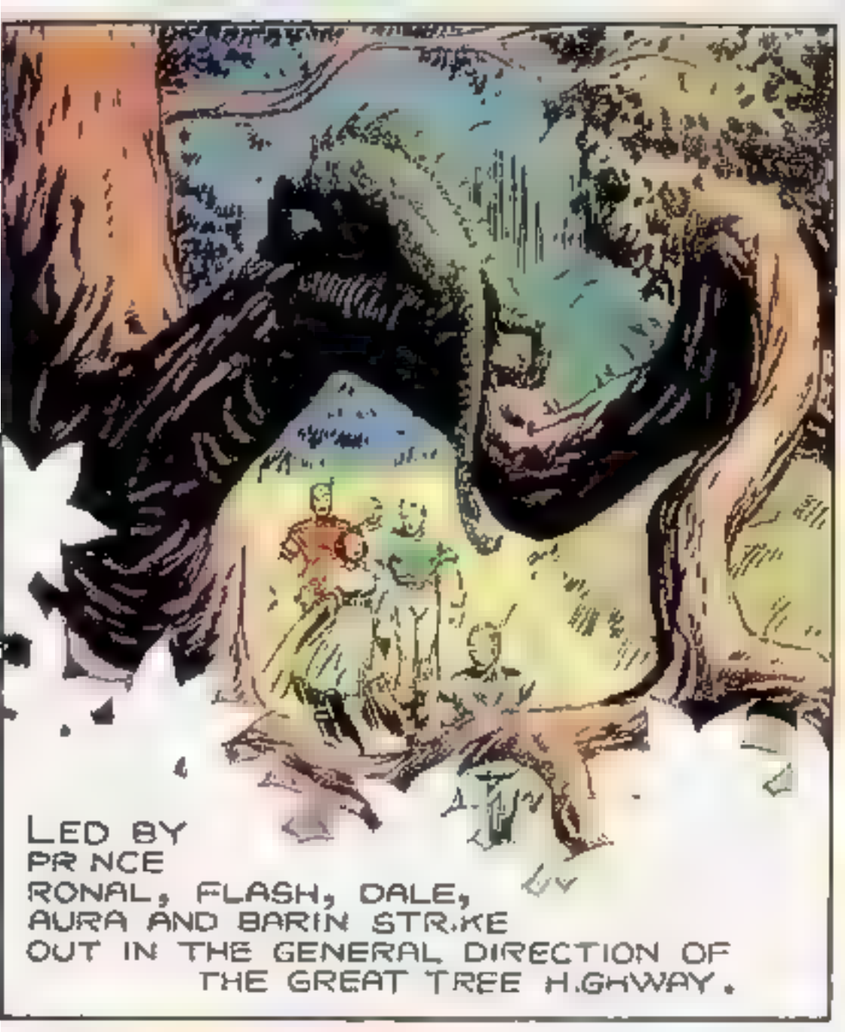

BY BURNING GREEN LOGS, THEY SEND A TOWERING COLUMN OF SMOKE UP THROUGH THE GIANT TREES.
"I HOPE THAT THIS DOESN'T ATTRACT MING'S SHIPS INSTEAD OF OURS."

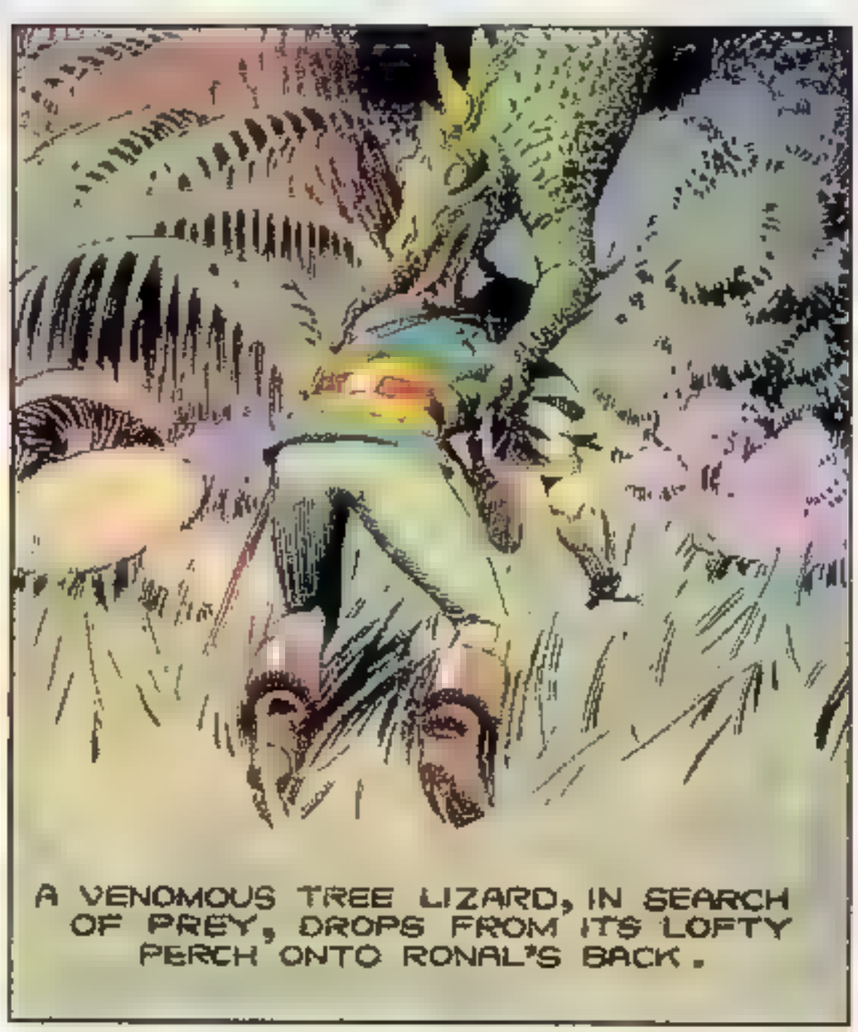
"LOOK, DALE-- SMOKE! THEIR SHIP MAY BE BURNING! ARE YOU AND AURA GAME TO TRY TO DIVE THROUGH THE TREES?
"OH, YES, RONAL! ANYTHING! WE MUST REACH THEM!"

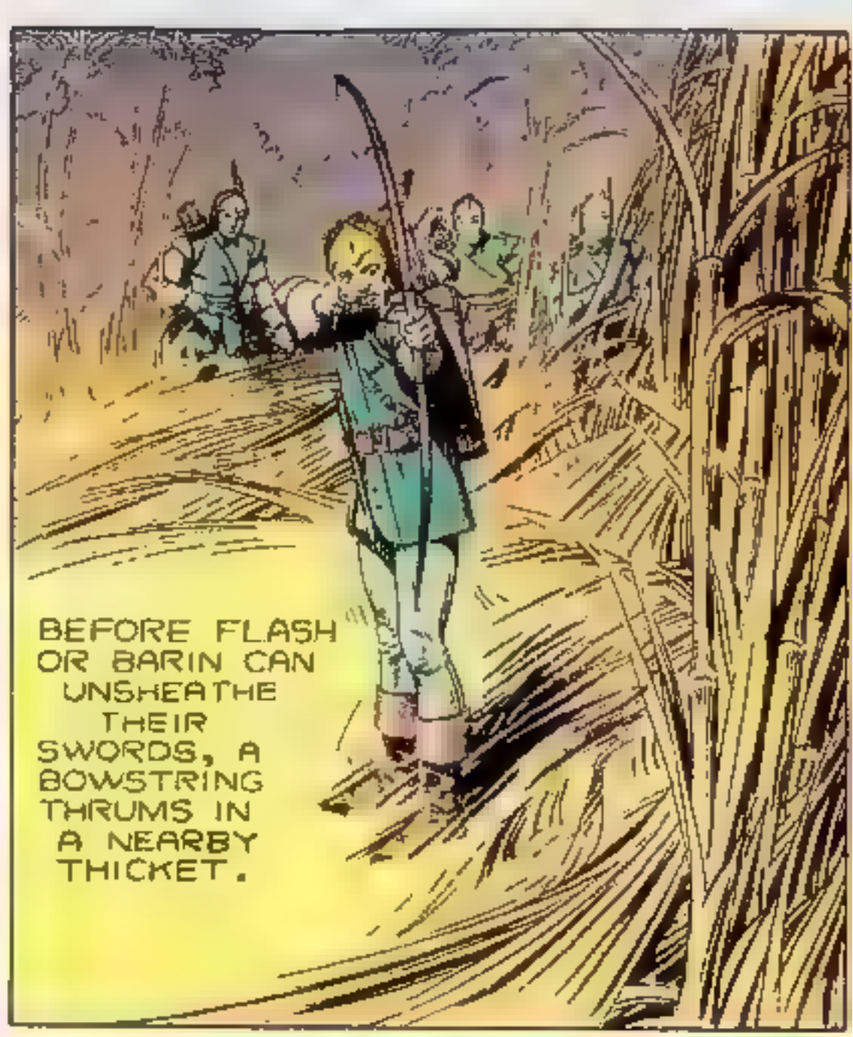

RONAL CUTS HIS ROCKETS AND DRIFTS THROUGH AN OPENING IN THE TREES. HALFWAY DOWN, AN UNSEEN VINE TRIPS THE PLANE.


"WHAT WAS THAT CRASH?"
"SOUNDED LIKE A FALLING ROCKET PLANE! HOPE IT WASN'T ONE OF YOURS! LET'S GO!"

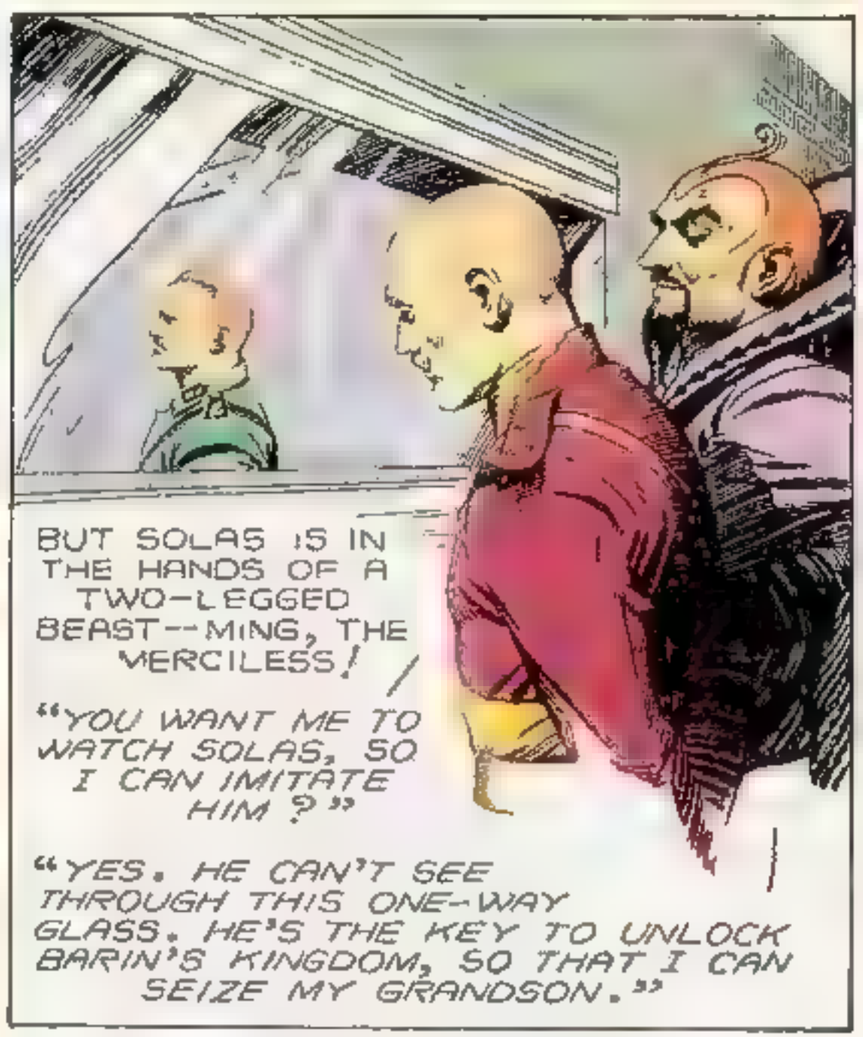
"THANK HEAVEN, YOU'RE ALLRIGHT, FLASH!"
"OH, YES--YES--I'M ALLRIGHT-- BUT YOU--GEE, GIRL, WE'VE GOT SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR!"
NEXT WEEK: A NEW THREAT

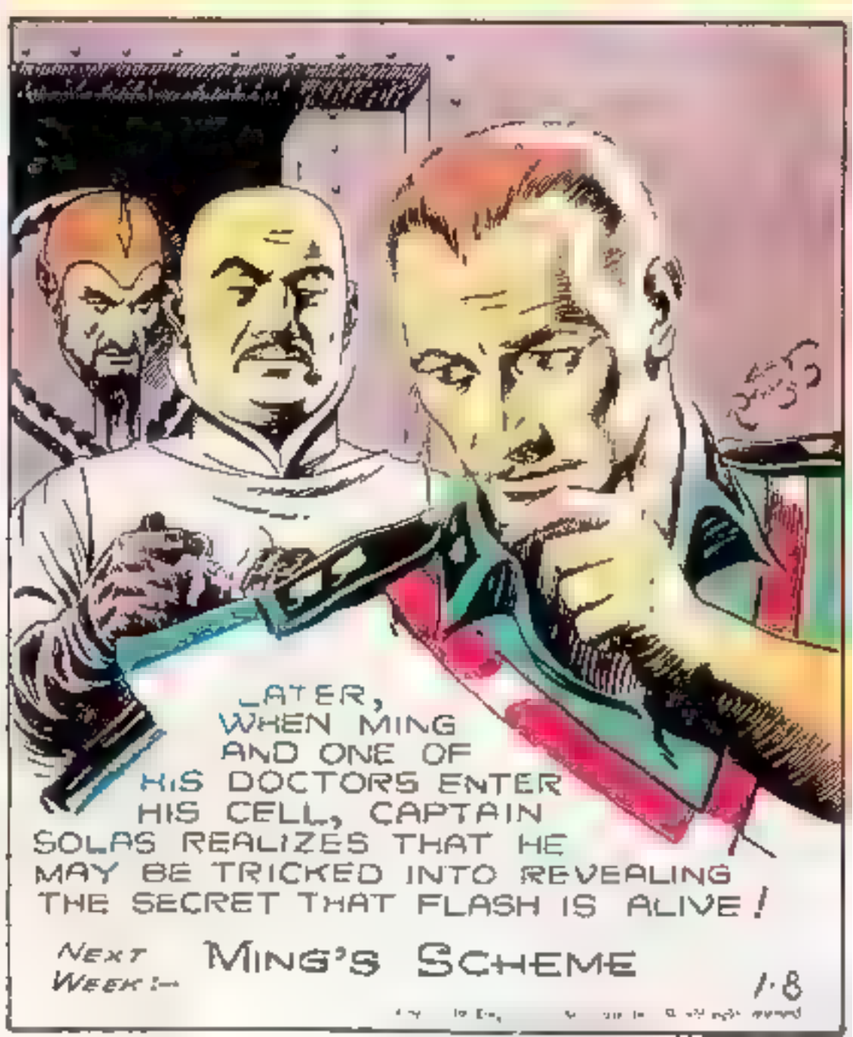

LED BY PRINCE RONAL, FLASH, DALE, AURA AND BARIN STRIKE OUT IN THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE GREAT TREE HIGHWAY.

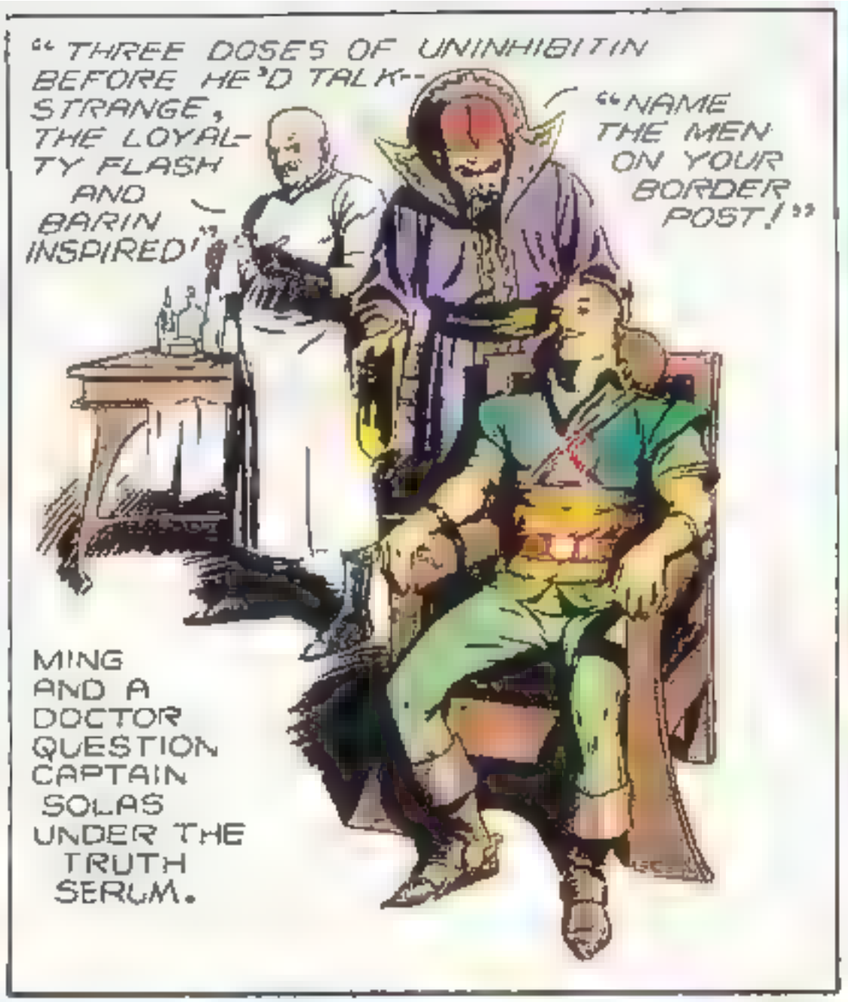

A VENOMOUS TREE LIZARD, IN SEARCH OF PREY, DROPS FROM ITS LOFTY PERCH ONTO RONAL'S BACK.

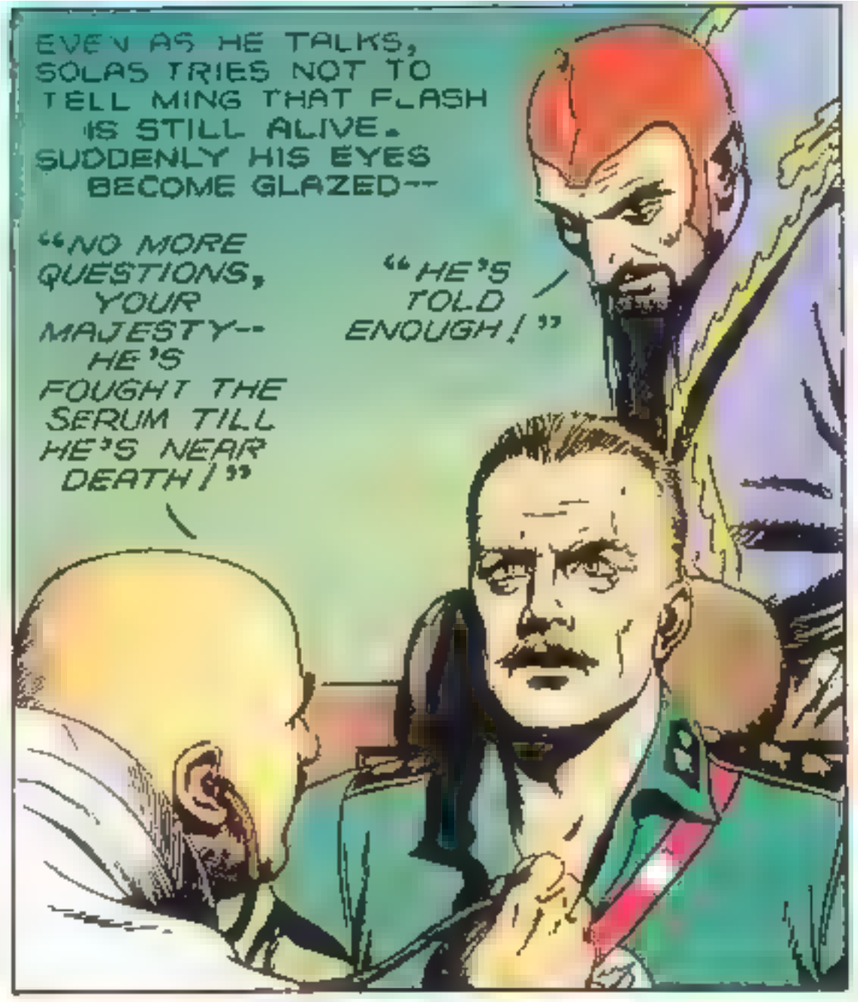

BEFORE FLASH OR BARIN CAN UNSHEATHE THEIR SWORDS, A BOWSTRING THRUMS IN A NEARBY THICKET.

"EXCELLENT SHOOTING, SOLDIER! WHO IS YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER?"
"CAPTAIN SOLAS, SIRE. WE WERE SEARCHING FOR YOU AND FLASH GORDON WHEN A WILD BEAST, OR SOMETHING, CARRIED THE CAPTAIN OFF."

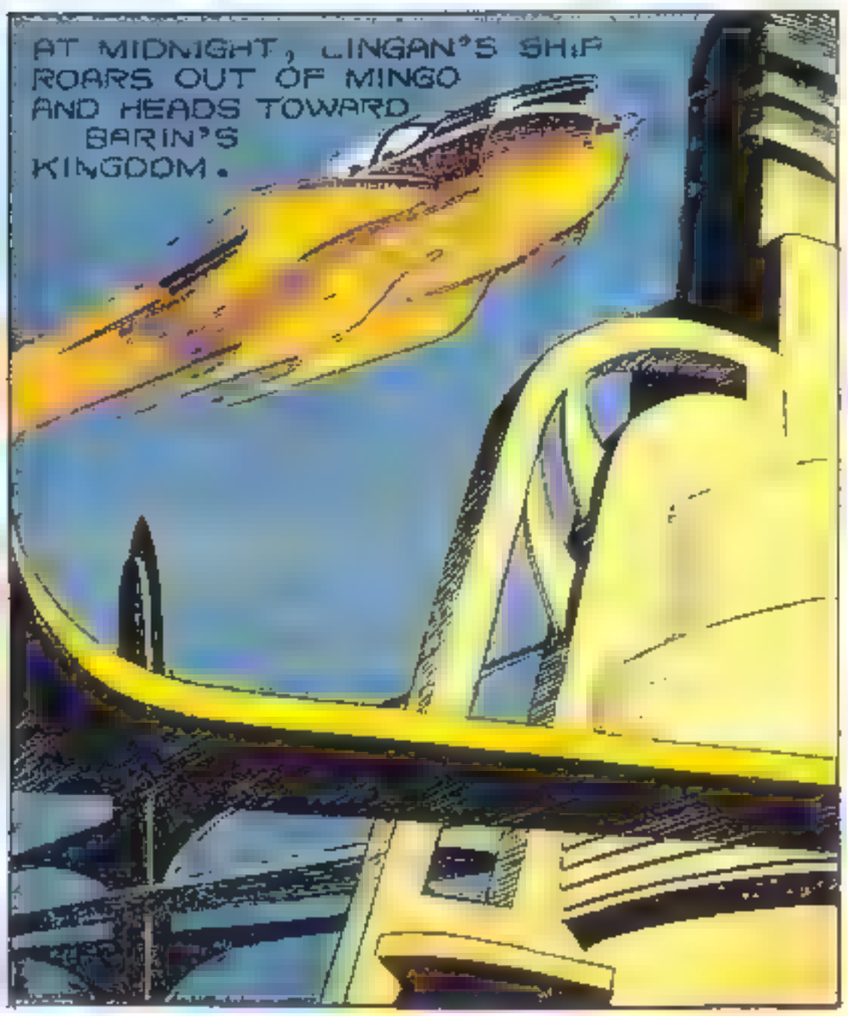

BUT SOLAS IS IN THE HANDS OF A TWO-LEGGED BEAST--MING, THE MERCILESS!
"YOU WANT ME TO WATCH SOLAS, SO I CAN IMITATE HIM?"
"YES. HE CAN'T SEE THROUGH THIS ONE-WAY GLASS. HE'S THE KEY TO UNLOCK BARIN'S KINGDOM, SO THAT I CAN SEIZE MY GRANDSON."


LATER, WHEN MING AND ONE OF HIS DOCTORS ENTER HIS CELL, CAPTAIN SOLAS REALIZES THAT HE MAY BE TRICKED INTO REVEALING THE SECRET THAT FLASH IS ALIVE!
NEXT WEEK:— MING'S SCHEME


"THREE DOSES OF UNINHIBITIN BEFORE HE'D TALK-- STRANGE, THE LOYALTY FLASH AND BARIN INSPIRED!"
"NAME THE MEN ON YOUR BORDER POST!"
MING AND A DOCTOR QUESTION CAPTAIN SOLAS UNDER THE TRUTH SERUM.

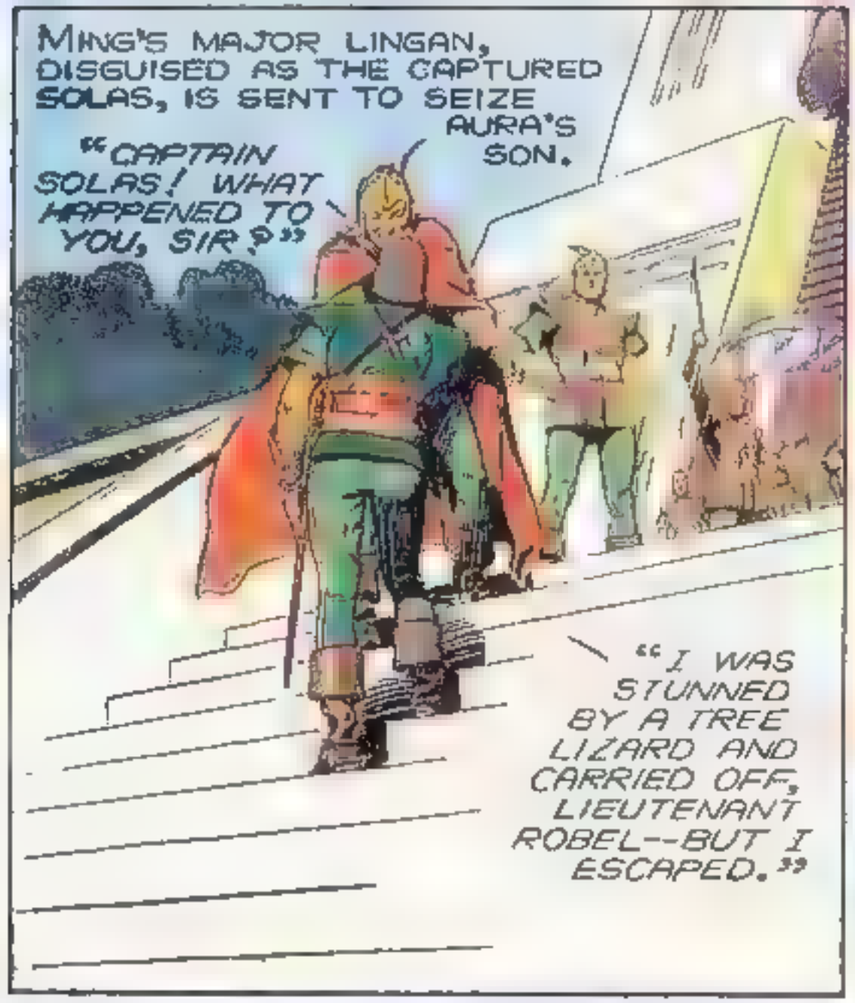

EVEN AS HE TALKS, SOLAS TRIES NOT TO TELL MING THAT FLASH IS STILL ALIVE. SUDDENLY HIS EYES BECOME GLAZED--
"NO MORE QUESTIONS, YOUR MAJESTY-- HE'S FOUGHT THE SERUM TILL HE'S NEAR DEATH!"
"HE'S TOLD ENOUGH!"

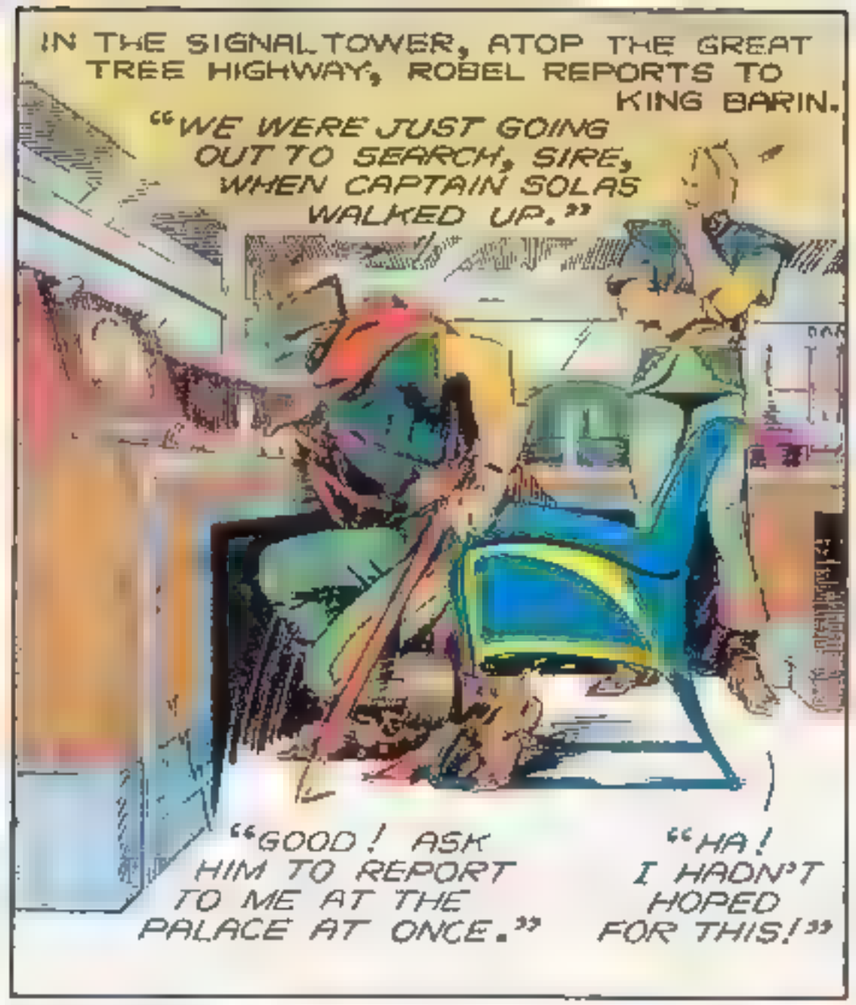
A MAKE UP ARTIST, WORKING FROM PHOTOGRAPHS, DISGUISES MAJOR LINGAN AS CAPTAIN SOLAS.
"A ROCKET SHIP WILL CARRY YOU TO THE ARBORIAN BORDER. I WARN YOU, MAJOR--DON'T COME BACK WITHOUT MY GRANDSON!"

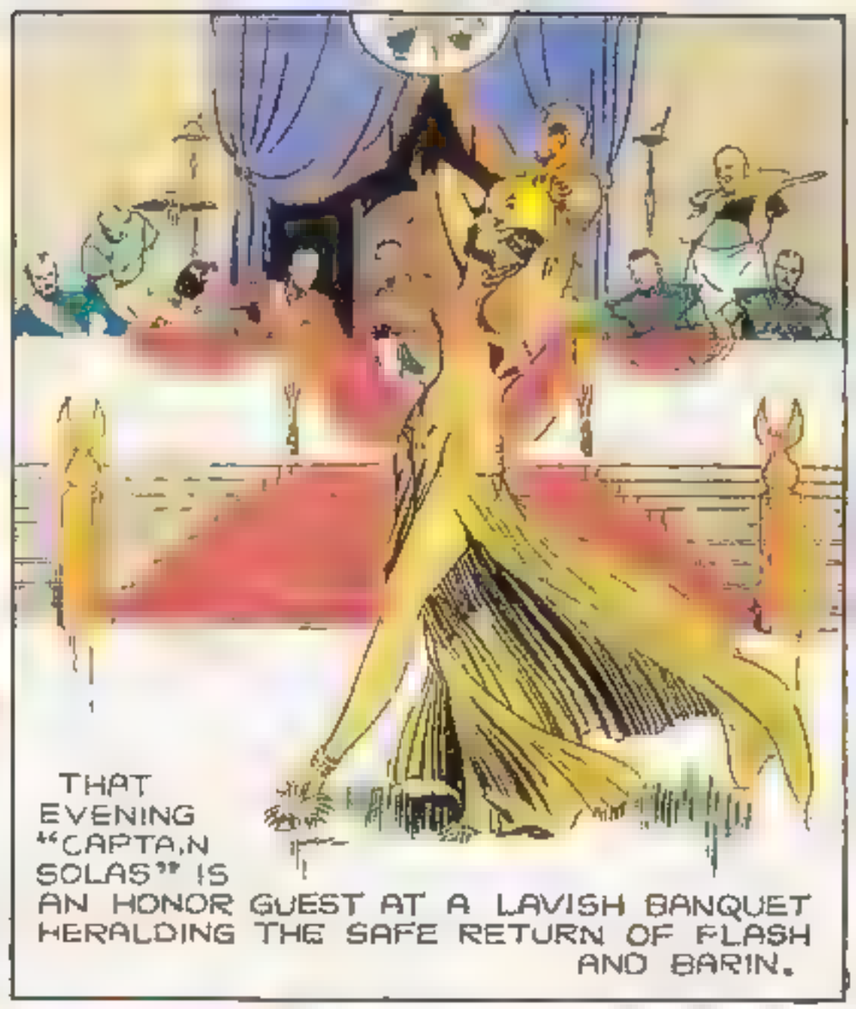

AT MIDNIGHT, LINGAN'S SHIP ROARS OUT OF MINGO AND HEADS TOWARD BARIN'S KINGDOM.

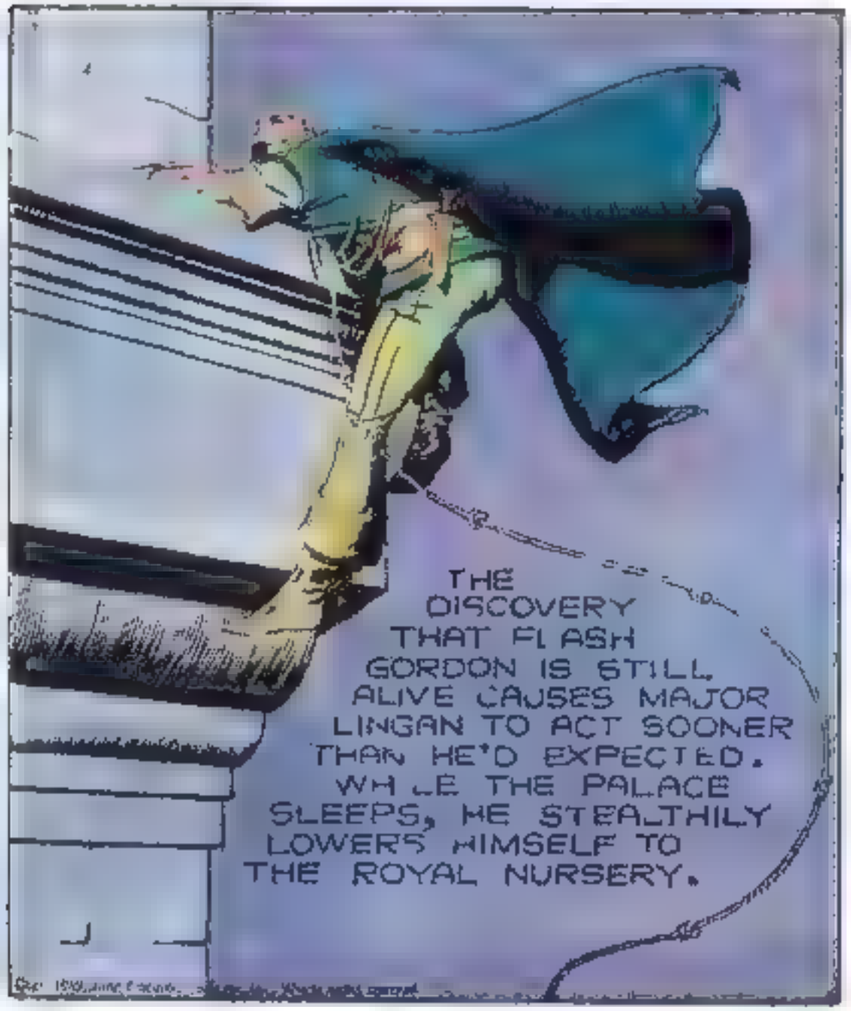
THE NEXT DAY, IN ARBORIA-- FLASH, DALE, AURA, BARIN AND RONAL FINALLY REACH THE ELEVATORS TO THE GREAT TREE HIGHWAY.

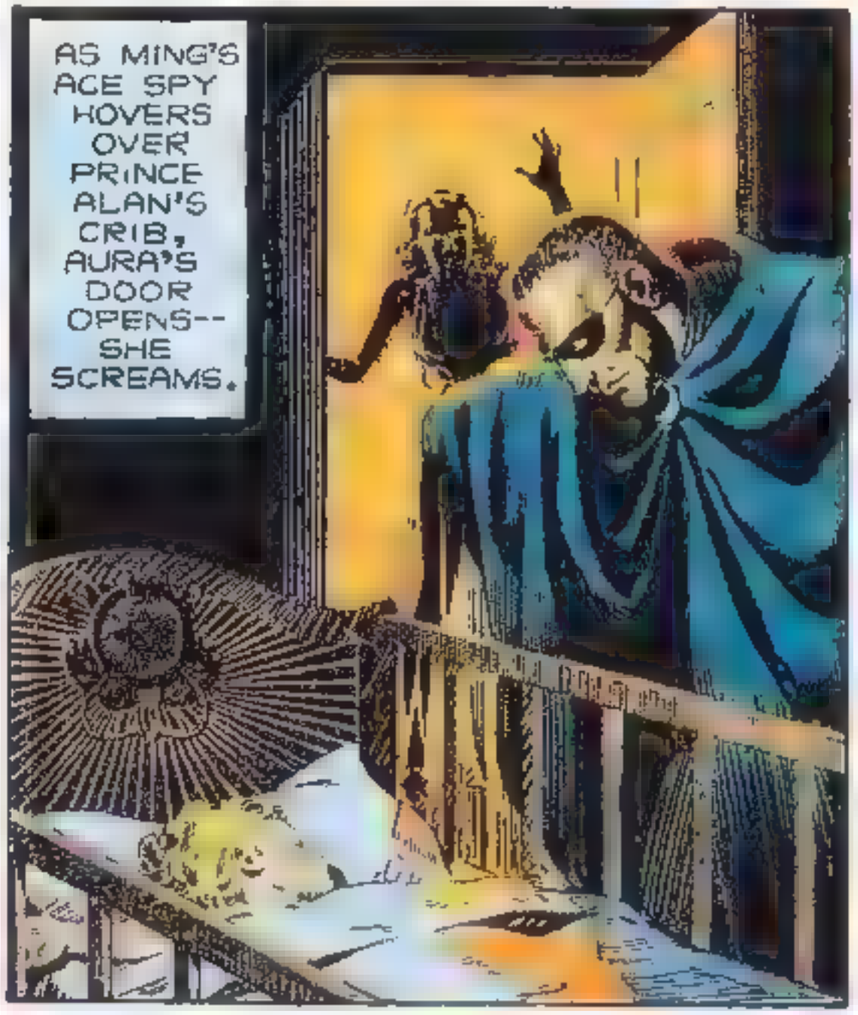
GAILY THEY ENTER THE ELEVATOR CARS, HAPPY TO HAVE ESCAPED THE PERILS OF THE DEADLY JUNGLE, UNAWARE THAT TRAGEDY STALKS THEM IN THE PERSON OF MAJOR LINGAN.
NEXT WEEK:- A SPY'S SURPRISE


MING'S MAJOR LINGAN, DISGUISED AS THE CAPTURED SOLAS, IS SENT TO SEIZE AURA'S SON.
"CAPTAIN SOLAS! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, SIR?"
"I WAS STUNNED BY A TREE LIZARD AND CARRIED OFF, LIEUTENANT ROBEL--BUT I ESCAPED."


IN THE SIGNAL TOWER, ATOP THE GREAT TREE HIGHWAY, ROBEL REPORTS TO KING BARIN.
"WE WERE JUST GOING OUT TO SEARCH, SIRE, WHEN CAPTAIN SOLAS WALKED UP."
"GOOD! ASK HIM TO REPORT TO ME AT THE PALACE AT ONCE."
"HA! I HADN'T HOPED FOR THIS!"


THAT EVENING "CAPTAIN SOLAS" IS AN HONOR GUEST AT A LAVISH BANQUET HERALDING THE SAFE RETURN OF FLASH AND BARIN.


THE DISCOVERY THAT FLASH GORDON IS STILL ALIVE CAUSES MAJOR LINGAN TO ACT SOONER THAN HE'D EXPECTED. WHILE THE PALACE SLEEPS, HE STEALTHILY LOWERS HIMSELF TO THE ROYAL NURSERY.


AS MING'S ACE SPY HOVERS OVER PRINCE ALAN'S CRIB, AURA'S DOOR OPENS-- SHE SCREAMS.

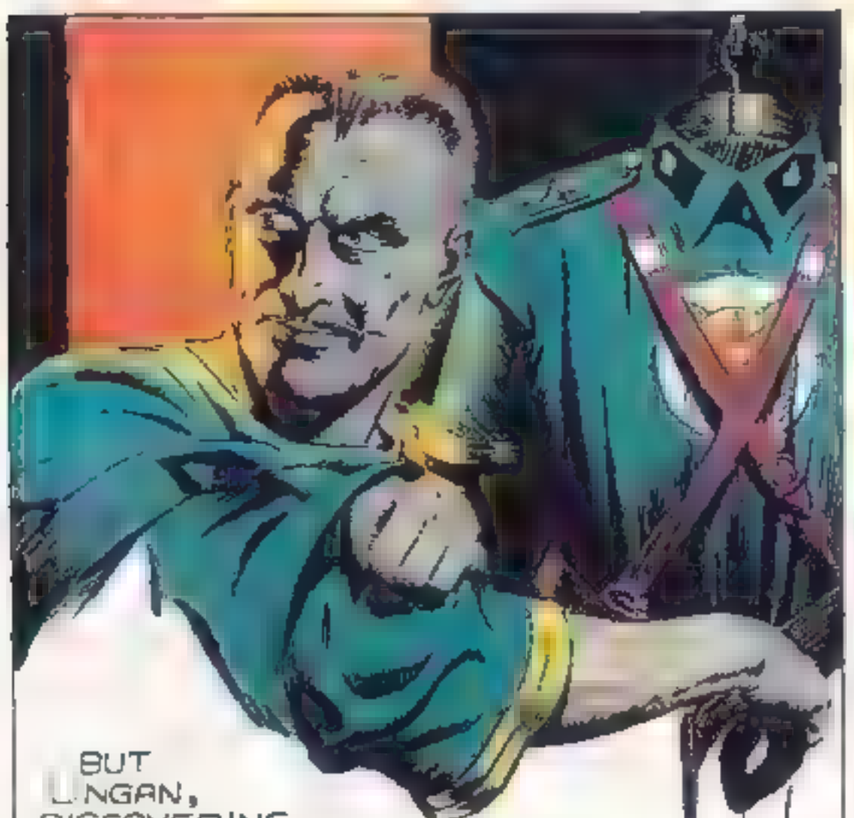
THE DOOR TO BARIN'S QUARTERS BURSTS OPEN AND FLASH DROPS THE INTRUDER WITH A BONE-CRACKING TACKLE!
NEXT WEEK: THE CLUE

LINGAN, DISGUISED AS BARIN'S CAPTAIN SOLAS, IS SENT TO STEAL THE HEIR TO MING'S THRONE. WHEN FLASH GRAPPLES WITH THE INTRUDER, BARIN GRASPS A HEAVY LAMP AND RUSHES TO HIS AID.

BUT IN THE DARKNESS, THE TWISTING, STRAINING FIGURES PROVE A POOR TARGET. FLASH DROPS UNDER BARIN'S BLOW AND LINGAN LEAPS THROUGH THE WINDOW, GRASPS HIS ROPE, AND SWINGS UP THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING.

"WELL, I MANAGED TO HANG ONTO THIS, BARIN--A SHOULDER-STRAP FROM A CAPTAIN'S UNIFORM!"

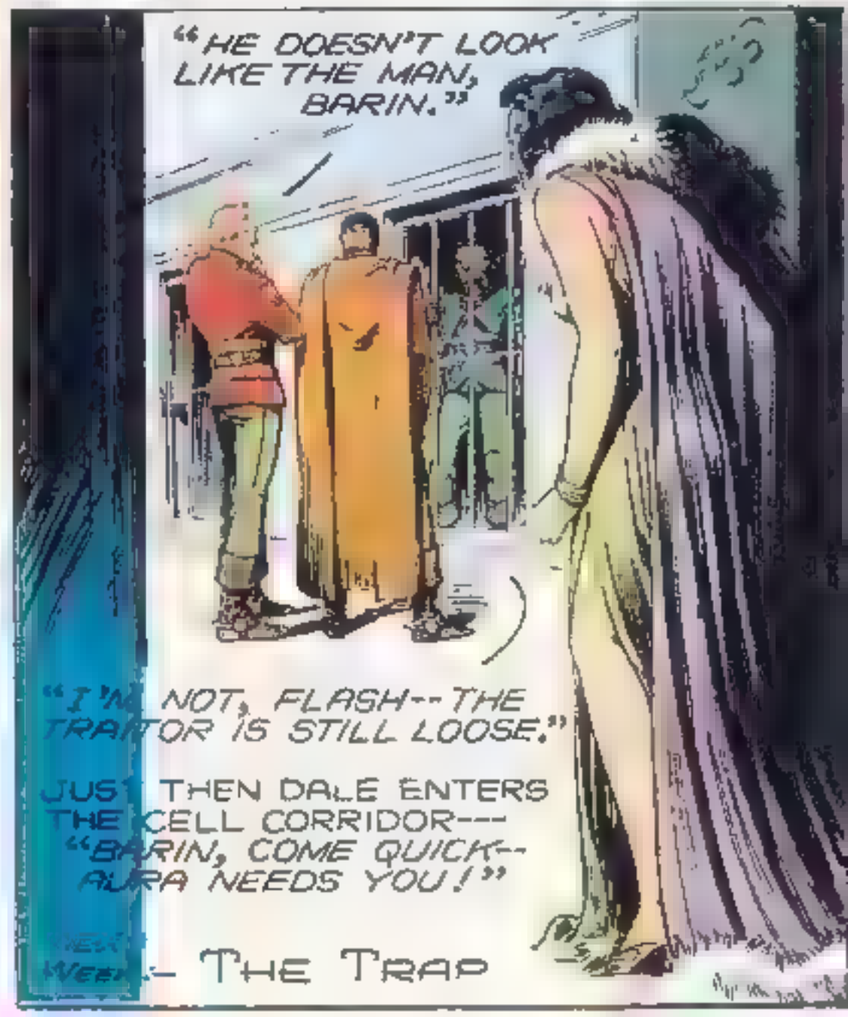
"THE TRAITOR! I'LL ORDER AN INSPECTION OF ALL CAPTAINS AT ONCE!"



BUT LINGAN, DISCOVERING HIS LOSS, SLIPS INTO THE OFFICERS' QUARTERS AND SUBSTITUTES HIS TUNIC FOR THAT OF ANOTHER OFFICER.

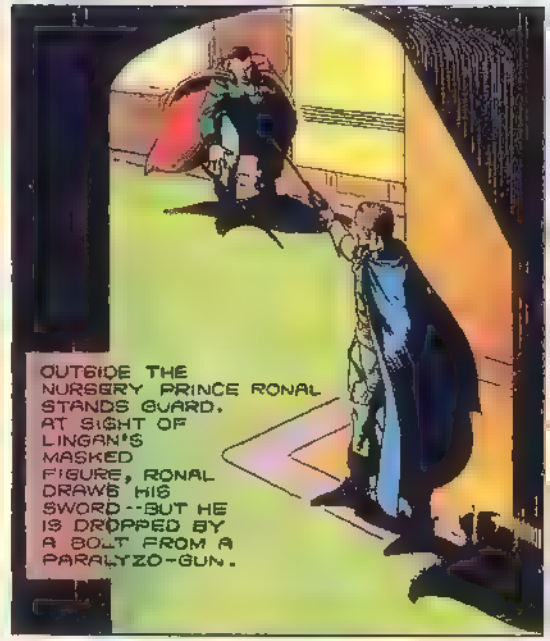
"THIS MASK FROM YOUR POCKET AND YOUR MISSING SHOULDER-STRAP PROVE YOUR GUILT, CAPTAIN TURAN--IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT MING'S GOLD COULD BUY YOU!"

"I SWEAR I'M NOT GUILTY, SIRE!"



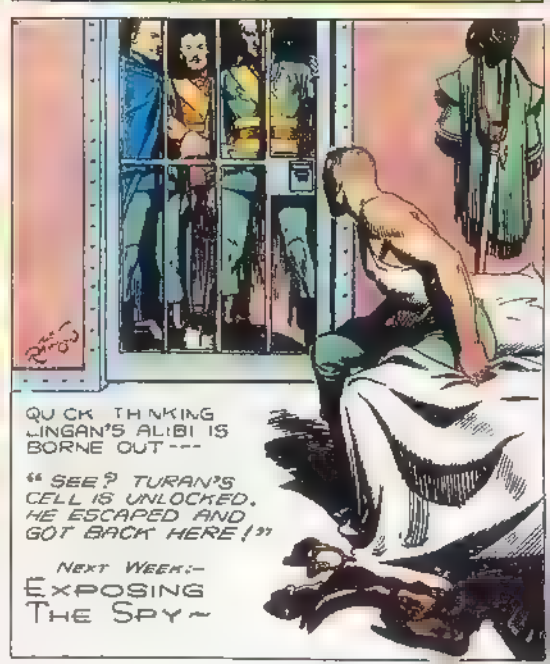
"BARIN, I THINK I HAVE IT! LISTEN TO THIS — WE'LL PUT THE BABY IN AURA'S ROOM."
WHILE DALE COMFORTS THE SLEEPLESS AURA, FLASH AND BARIN RACK THEIR BRAINS FOR A PLAN TO TRAP THE WOULD-BE ABDUCTOR OF AURA'S CHILD.

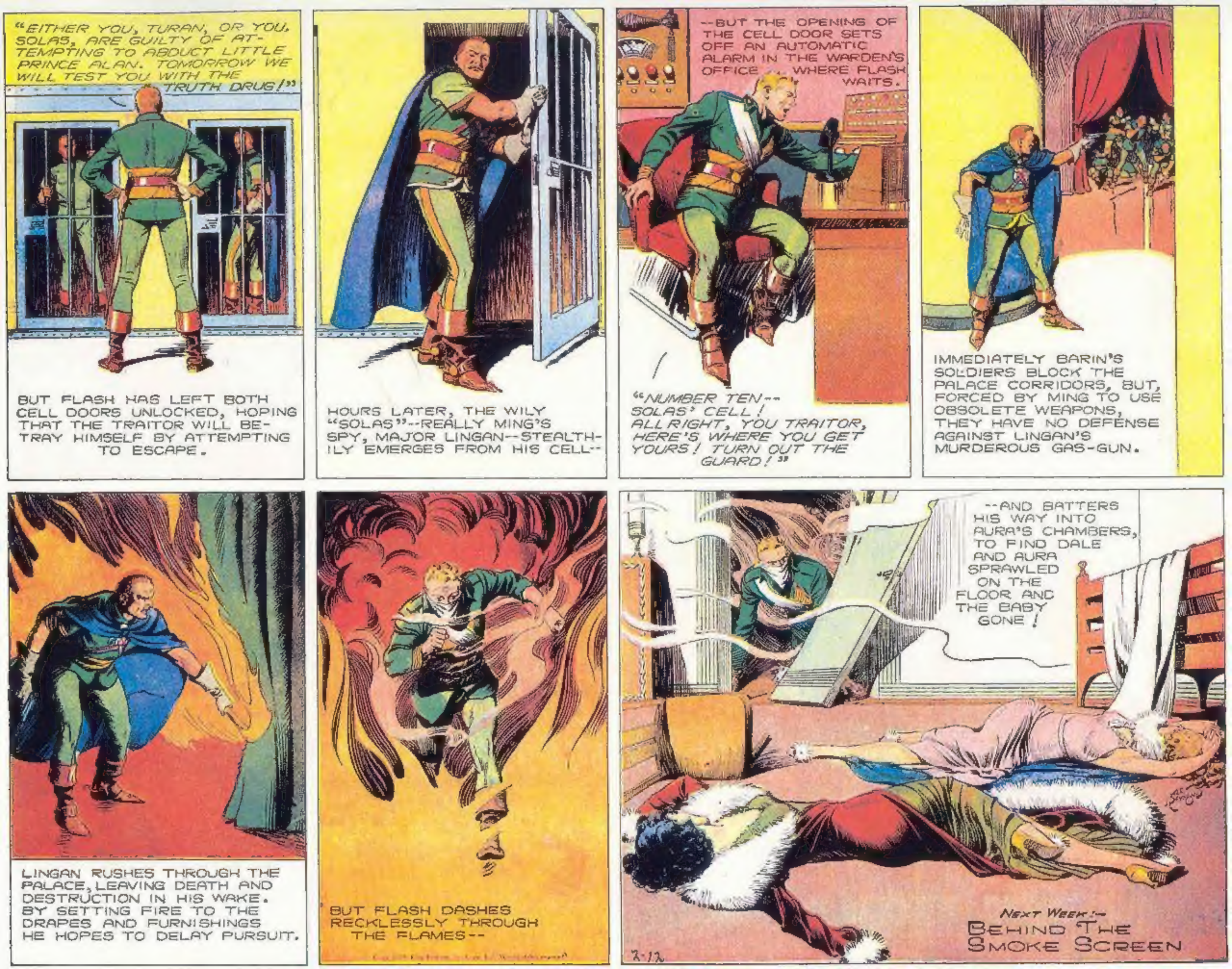
BUT MING'S SPY, LINGAN, MASQUERADING AS CAPTAIN SOLAS, STEALS INTO THE DUNGEON WHERE TURAN LIES UNJUSTLY ACCUSED. HE KNOCKS OUT A JAILER AND TAKES HIS KEYS--


OUTSIDE THE NURSERY PRINCE RONAL STANDS GUARD. AT SIGHT OF LINGAN'S MASKED FIGURE, RONAL DRAWS HIS SWORD--BUT HE IS DROPPED BY A BOLT FROM A PARALYZO-GUN.

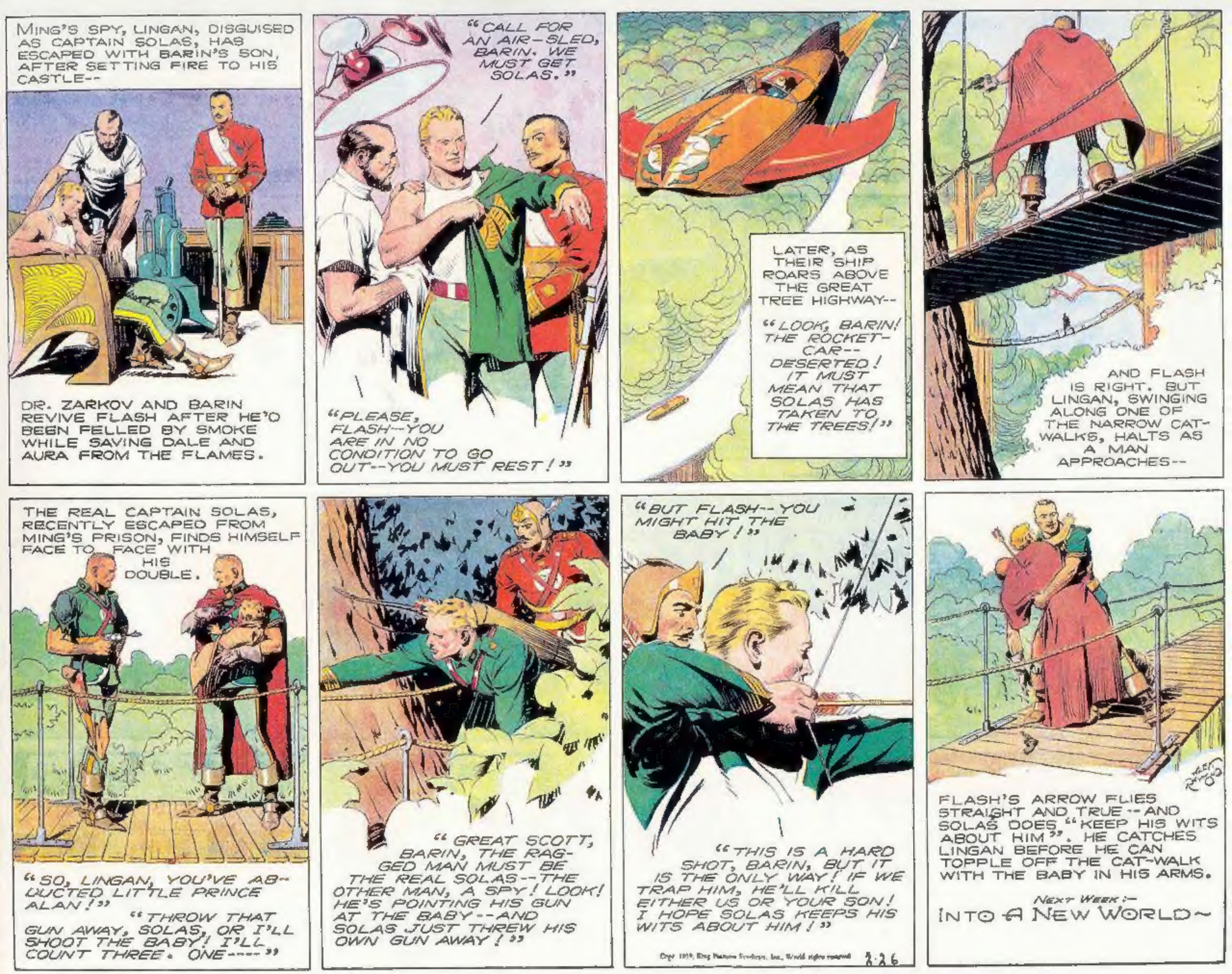
AS LINGAN REACHES INTO THE CRADLE, IT EXPLODES, RELEASING AGONIZING TEAR-GAS FUMES--LINGAN STAGGERS BACKWARD, TEARING OFF HIS MASK--
25

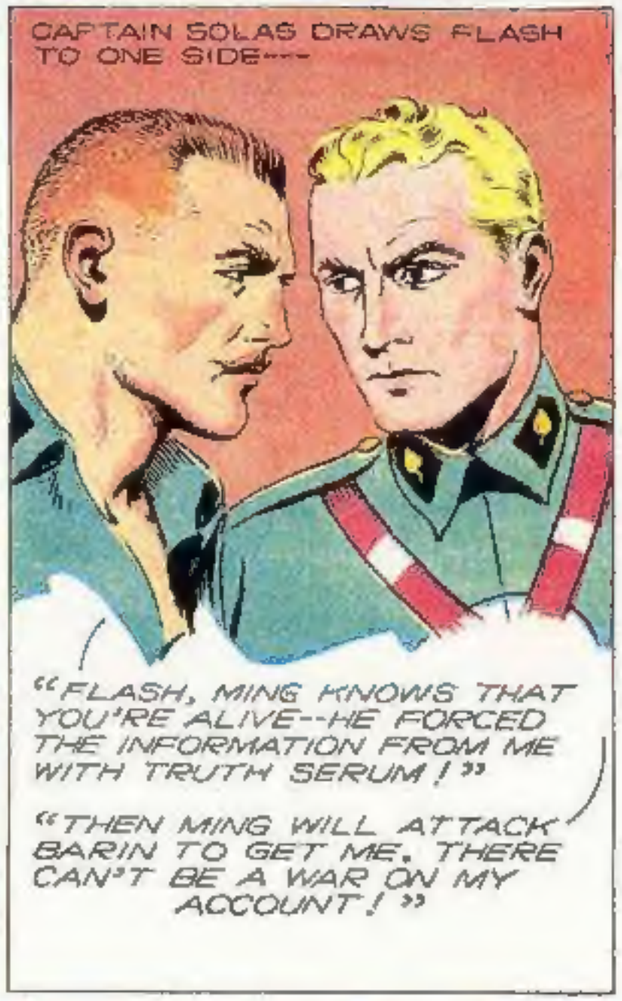
"WHY, IT'S CAPTAIN SOLAS!"
"IS THAT YOU, FLASH? I CAN'T SEE YOU--DID YOU GET TURAN? I WAS JUST GRABBING HIM, WHEN SOMETHING BLEW UP!"

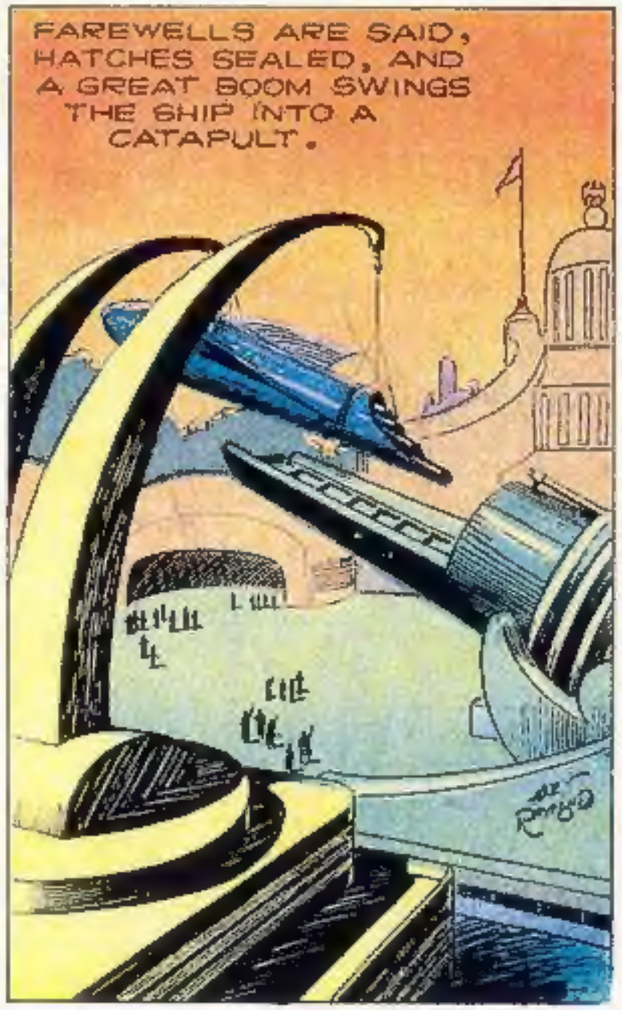

QUICK THINKING LINGAN'S ALIBI IS BORNE OUT---
"SEE? TURAN'S CELL IS UNLOCKED. HE ESCAPED AND GOT BACK HERE!"
NEXT WEEK:-
EXPOSING THE SPY~


"EITHER YOU, TURAN, OR YOU, SOLAS, ARE GUILTY OF ATTEMPTING TO ABDUCT LITTLE PRINCE ALAN. TOMORROW WE WILL TEST YOU WITH THE TRUTH DRUG!"
BUT FLASH HAS LEFT BOTH CELL DOORS UNLOCKED, HOPING THAT THE TRAITOR WILL BETRAY HIMSELF BY ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE.
HOURS LATER, THE WILY "SOLAS"--REALLY MING'S SPY, MAJOR LINGAN--STEALTHILY EMERGES FROM HIS CELL--
--BUT THE OPENING OF THE CELL DOOR SETS OFF AN AUTOMATIC ALARM IN THE WARDEN'S OFFICE ... WHERE FLASH WAITS.
"NUMBER TEN--SOLAS' CELL! ALL RIGHT, YOU TRAITOR, HERE'S WHERE YOU GET YOURS! TURN OUT THE GUARD!"
IMMEDIATELY BARIN'S SOLDIERS BLOCK THE PALACE CORRIDORS, BUT, FORCED BY MING TO USE OBSOLETE WEAPONS, THEY HAVE NO DEFENSE AGAINST LINGAN'S MURDEROUS GAS-GUN.
LINGAN RUSHES THROUGH THE PALACE, LEAVING DEATH AND DESTRUCTION IN HIS WAKE. BY SETTING FIRE TO THE DRAPES AND FURNISHINGS HE HOPES TO DELAY PURSUIT.
BUT FLASH DASHES RECKLESSLY THROUGH THE FLAMES--
--AND BATTERS HIS WAY INTO AURA'S CHAMBERS, TO FIND DALE AND AURA SPRAWLED ON THE FLOOR AND THE BABY GONE!
NEXT WEEK:-- BEHIND THE SMOKE SCREEN

MING'S SPY, LINGAN, DISGUISED AS SOLAS, HAS SET BARIN'S PALACE AFIRE TO COVER HIS ESCAPE WITH BARIN'S INFANT SON--
UPON SMASHING INTO THE ROYAL SUITE, FLASH FINDS DALE AND AURA OVERCOME BY SMOKE AND THE BABY'S CRIB EMPTY. SOAKING CLOTHS IN WATER, HE TIES THEM OVER THE GIRLS' FACES.
HE DOUSES HIMSELF AND THE GIRLS WITH WATER AND LIFTS THEM TO HIS SHOULDERS--
--AND ONCE AGAIN DASHES THROUGH THE FLAMING CORRIDOR. BUT THERE IS A LIMIT TO EVEN FLASH'S GREAT ENDURANCE--HE STARTS TO REEL AND STUMBLE--
AS CONSCIOUSNESS SLIPS FROM HIM, HE STAGGERS OUT OF THE FLAMES AND INTO THE ARMS OF A GROUP OF BARIN'S FIRE-FIGHTERS.
MEANWHILE, THE CAT-LIKE LINGAN, WITH THE BABY WRAPPED IN HIS CLOAK, DESCENDS THE CASTLE WALL BY WAY OF A STOUT VINE.
BUT FLASH AND BARIN HAVE PLACED A CORDON OF SOLDIERS AROUND THE PALACE TO PREVENT THE ABDUCTOR'S ESCAPE. AN ALERT OFFICER SPOTS LINGAN--
"AFTER HIM, MEN! BUT DON'T SHOOT--YOU MIGHT HIT THE BABY!"
A ROCKET CAR STANDS NEARBY--TOWARD THIS LINGAN RUSHES, SHOOTING DOWN ALL WHO STAND IN HIS WAY.
HE HURLS THE MACHINE ONTO THE GREAT TREE HIGHWAY, BOWLING OVER BARIN'S MEN LIKE TEN-PINS!
NEXT WEEK:-
END OF THE TRAIL~
2-19


MING'S SPY, LINGAN, DISGUISED AS CAPTAIN SOLAS, HAS ESCAPED WITH BARIN'S SON, AFTER SETTING FIRE TO HIS CASTLE--
DR. ZARKOV AND BARIN REVIVE FLASH AFTER HE'D BEEN FELLED BY SMOKE WHILE SAVING DALE AND AURA FROM THE FLAMES.
"CALL FOR AN AIR-SLED, BARIN. WE MUST GET SOLAS."
"PLEASE, FLASH--YOU ARE IN NO CONDITION TO GO OUT--YOU MUST REST!"
LATER, AS THEIR SHIP ROARS ABOVE THE GREAT TREE HIGHWAY--
"LOOK, BARIN! THE ROCKET-CAR--DESERTED! IT MUST MEAN THAT SOLAS HAS TAKEN TO THE TREES!"
AND FLASH IS RIGHT. BUT LINGAN, SWINGING ALONG ONE OF THE NARROW CAT-WALKS, HALTS AS A MAN APPROACHES--
THE REAL CAPTAIN SOLAS, RECENTLY ESCAPED FROM MING'S PRISON, FINDS HIMSELF FACE TO FACE WITH HIS DOUBLE.
"SO, LINGAN, YOU'VE ABDUCTED LITTLE PRINCE ALAN!"
"THROW THAT GUN AWAY, SOLAS, OR I'LL SHOOT THE BABY! I'LL COUNT THREE. ONE----"
"GREAT SCOTT, BARIN, THE RAGGED MAN MUST BE THE REAL SOLAS--THE OTHER MAN, A SPY! LOOK! HE'S POINTING HIS GUN AT THE BABY--AND SOLAS JUST THREW HIS OWN GUN AWAY!"
"BUT FLASH--YOU MIGHT HIT THE BABY!"
"THIS IS A HARD SHOT, BARIN, BUT IT IS THE ONLY WAY! IF WE TRAP HIM, HE'LL KILL EITHER US OR YOUR SON! I HOPE SOLAS KEEPS HIS WITS ABOUT HIM!"
FLASH'S ARROW FLIES STRAIGHT AND TRUE--AND SOLAS DOES "KEEP HIS WITS ABOUT HIM". HE CATCHES LINGAN BEFORE HE CAN TOPPLE OFF THE CAT-WALK WITH THE BABY IN HIS ARMS.
NEXT WEEK:-
INTO A NEW WORLD~





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